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ABSTRACT

This text is designed to be used in conjunction with two other texts, the "Thai Reader" and the "Thai Vocabulary." All words cited in the present book are followed by phonetic transcription allowing students to learn the writing system through self-study. Chapters included in the text are: (1) "Thai Consonants and Their Names," (2) "Vocalic Symbols," (3) "Tonal Markers," (4) "Initial Consonants," (5) "Final and Medial Consonants," (6) "Other Irregularities," and (7) "Numerals and Special Signs." A representative samplings of Thai handwriting is included. For the companion documents, see FL 004 860 and FL 004 861. (RL)

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THE THAI SYSTEM OF WRITING

Mary R. Haas

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
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Publication Series B — Aids — Number 5

THE THAI SYSTEM OF WRITING

Mary R. Haas

American Council of Learned Societies
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P R E F A C E

In 1942 a small volume entitled "The Thai System of Writing" was prepared by the author. Reproduced by the Ditto process, it was used in Thai classes at the University of Michigan and later at the University of California, Berkeley. The present volume is a completely revised and rewritten version of that earlier work.

This book is designed to be used in conjunction with two other recently published books, namely the THAI READER and the THAI VOCABULARY (American Council of Learned Societies, 1954 and 1955). All words cited in the present book are followed by a phonetic transcription (see Phonetic Key and Charts on the pages immediately following this preface). This is necessary so that all phases of the writing system, both regular and irregular, will be entirely clear even to the student who wishes to learn the system by self-study. Before he can learn to read Thai effectively, however, the student will need to rid himself entirely of any tendency to "lean" on the phonetic transcription. This can probably be best accomplished by the method described in the following paragraphs.

Unlike the previous edition of this book the present book has no exercises. However, this lack can be adequately compensated for if the student will make full use of the materials provided in this book and in the THAI READER. The author recommends the

following procedures:

(1) As soon as the student has covered the material in the first 22 pages of this book he can turn back to the examples beginning on p.19 and practice reading them without the aid of the phonetic transcription by placing a blank sheet of paper over the transcriptions.

(2) After the student has learned the basic rules of the Thai writing system (i.e. has covered the material in the first three chapters, pp. 1-40), he is ready to begin the study of the THAI READER. Before attempting to read any full phrases or sentences, the student should first study the vocabulary of each lesson in the READER, then review and check his ability to read the individual words in that vocabulary by covering the phonetic transcriptions with a blank sheet of paper. For best results practice reading the words aloud.

(3) As he progresses to the more advanced chapters of the THAI SYSTEM OF WRITING, the student should continue to review each section and chapter by covering the phonetic transcriptions with a blank sheet of paper and reading the examples aloud.

(4) Similarly, as he proceeds to the more advanced lessons in the THAI READER, he should continue to check and review each vocabulary by covering the phonetic transcriptions and reading the examples aloud.

(5) The student should also memorize at least some of the lessons in the THAI READER. This device is particularly useful in the early stages of the study of the Thai writing system.

Most of the Thai words and phrases in this book are shown in typewritten form. The first time any symbols are introduced to the reader, however, they are shown as large-sized handdrawn symbols; see pp. 6-9, consonants; pp. 15 and 18, vowels; p. 17, tonal markers; and p. 83, numerals. Over and above this a few samples of handwriting are also included in the book (pp. 104-107).

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the American Council of Learned Societies for support in the production of the original version of this work and for their assistance in the publication of the present revised work. I am also deeply grateful to Mr. Heng R. Subhanka who first taught me how to read and write Thai and who gave me many valuable suggestions about the arrangement of presentation in the original version. Many of his suggestions have been retained in the present work. Mr. Sobhak Kasemsanta has provided the large handdrawn samples of Thai writing symbols. Samples of Thai handwriting in three different styles were written out by Miss Punnee Kiangsiri (pp. 104-105). Mr. Waiwit Buddhari provided the other two samples of Thai handwriting (pp. 106-107) and also assisted in the proofreading. Mr. George V. Grekoff drew in the lines in various charts which are interspersed in the beginning sections of the book.

MARY R. HAAS

University of California, Berkeley
November, 1955

PHONETIC KEY AND CHARTS

Consonants

Note. Consonants followed by a hyphen occur only in initial position; the one preceded by a hyphen only in final position. The rest occur in both positions.

- /ʔ/ The glottal stop.
- /b/ Voiced unaspirated bilabial stop. In initial position like Eng. b in bid. In final position like Eng. b in crib, but unreleased.
- /c-/ Voiceless unaspirated palatal stop. Similar to Eng. ch in chin but without the aspiration that accompanies the Eng. sound.
- /ch-/ Voiceless aspirated palatal stop. Similar to Eng. ch in chin but with stronger aspiration.
- /d/ Voiced unaspirated postdental stop. In initial position like Eng. d in day. In final position like Eng. d in red, but unreleased.
- /f-/ Voiceless labiodental spirant. Like Eng. f in fame. (Occurs rarely in final position in a few recent loan-words from Eng.)
- /-g/ Voiced unaspirated velar stop. Only in final position and like Eng. g in big, but unreleased.
- /h-/ Voiceless aspirate. Like Eng. h in hat.
- /j/ Voiced palatal semivowel. Like Eng. y in you.
- /k-/ Voiceless unaspirated velar stop. Like Eng. k in key but without the aspiration that accompanies the Eng. sound. Hence more like French or Italian "hard" c (i.e. k/, as in Fr. café).
- /kh-/ Voiceless aspirated velar stop. Like Eng. k in key but with stronger aspiration.

- /l-/ Voiced lateral. Like l in Eng. look. (Occurs rarely in final position in a few recent loanwords from English.)
- /m/ Voiced bilabial nasal. Like Eng. m in make, come.
- /n/ Voiced postdental nasal. Like Eng. n in now, win.
- /ŋ/ Voiced velar nasal. Like Eng. ng in song, but in Thai the sound occurs in initial as well as final position.
- /p-/ Voiceless unaspirated bilabial stop. Like Eng. p in pin but without the aspiration. Compare Fr. or Ital. p.
- /ph-/ Voiceless aspirated bilabial stop. Like Eng. p in pin but with stronger aspiration.
- /r-/ Voiced retroflex or weak trill. Compare Eng. r in red.
- /s-/ Voiceless sibilant. Like Eng. s in sun. (Occurs rarely in final position in a few loanwords.)
- /t-/ Voiceless unaspirated postdental stop. Like Eng. t in ten but without the aspiration. Compare Fr. or Ital. t.
- /th-/ Voiceless aspirated postdental stop. Like Eng. t in ten but with stronger aspiration.
- /w/ Voiced bilabial semivowel. Like Eng. w in walk, how, but with greater friction and more lip rounding.

V o w e l s

- /a/, /aa/ Low central vowels. Like Eng. a in father. /a/, short; /aa/, long.
- /e/, /ee/ Mid front vowels. Like Eng. e in hen. /e/, short; /ee/, long.
- /ɛ/, /ɛɛ/ Low front vowels. Like Eng. a in cat. /ɛ/, short; /ɛɛ/, long.
- /ə/, /əə/ Mid central vowels. Similar to Eng. er in her but, as in British Eng., without the final r. /ə/, short; /əə/, long.

x

- /i/, /ii/ High front vowels. Like Eng. ee in meek. /i/, short; /ii/, long.
- /ia/ /i/ plus /a/ without any pause or break between.
- /o/, /oo/ Mid back rounded vowels. Like Eng. o in lone. /o/, short; /oo/, long.
- /ɔ/, /ɔɔ/ Low back rounded vowels. Like Eng. o in song or aw in law. /ɔ/, short; /ɔɔ/, long.
- /u/, /uu/ High back rounded vowels. Like Eng. oo in noon. /u/, short; /uu/, long.
- /ua/ /u/ plus /a/ without any pause or break between.
- /y/, /yy/ High central unrounded vowels. Made by raising the center part of the tongue while keeping the lips in relaxed or protracted position. /y/, short; /yy/, long.
- /ya/ /y/ plus /a/ without any pause or break between.

T o n e s

- ˘/ Low tone. Pitched at a comfortable low range of the voice. The pitch and contour of the remaining tones are described below in relation to the low tone.
- /˘/ Rising tone. Rises from the pitch of the low tone to the pitch of the high tone.
- ˙/ High tone. About a fifth above the low tone. At phrase end has glottal stricture and a quick drop.
- /˙/ Falling tone. Falls from the pitch of the high tone to that of the low tone. At phrase end has glottal stricture.
- // (Absence of a mark.) Middle tone. Pitch approximately a major second above the low tone. At phrase end has a very slight drop.

CONSONANT CHART

	Bila- bial	Post- dental	Pala- tal	Velar	Glot- tal
STOPS					
Vd.Unaspirated	b	d		-g	
Vl.Unaspirated	p-	t-	c-	k-	ʔ
Vl.Aspirated	ph-	th-	ch-	kh-	
SPIRANTS					
Vl.Unaspirated	f-	s-			h-
SONORANTS					
Vd.Semivowels	w		j		
Vd.Nasals	m	n		ŋ	
Vd.Lateral		l-			
Vd.Trill (or Retroflex)		r-			

VOWEL CHART

	Front U n r o u n d e d	Central e d	Back Rounded
High	i, ii, ia	y, yy, ya	u, uu, ua
Mid	e, ee	a, aa	o, oo
Low	ɛ, ɛɛ	a, aa	ɔ, ɔɔ

TONE CONTOURS IN ISOLATION

PITCH
LEVEL

High

Mid

Low

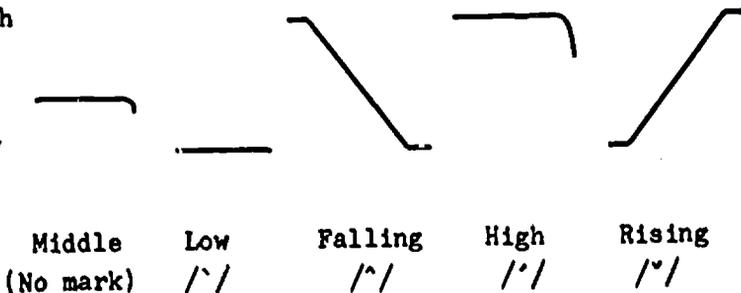


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I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Thai system of writing is one of many varieties of the Devanagari writing system which have spread out from India. The immediate source is the Cambodian variety. To this day the Thai numerals and the Cambodian numerals are identical, but the alphabetical symbols, while similar, are sufficiently diverse so that each system must be learned separately.

The particular adaptation of the Thai alphabet as a separate system of writing was devised by (or at the request of) Ramkhamhaeng the Great of Sukhothai. The first written monument, an engraved block of stone known as the Inscription of King Ramkhamhaeng, is assigned to the year 1283 A.D. [See Cornelius B. Bradley, "The oldest known writing in Siamese," *Journal of the Siam Society*, vol. 6, pt. 1 (1909), pp. 1-64.]

The modern Thai writing system is directly descended from the form of writing preserved in this earliest inscription, though certain changes (which need not concern us here) have been introduced since that time. Another slightly different derivative of that early form of writing is the system used by the Lao (Laotians) of the Kingdom of Laos which lies to the northeast of Thailand.

The language spoken by the authors of the inscription was similar to the modern standard dialect of Bangkok, but certain features still preserved in the modern writing system show us that it was not identical at all points.

The description of the Thai system of writing which is provided in the present volume gives the pronunciation entirely in terms of the modern standard dialect of Bangkok. In addition to the standard dialect there are three other major dialects spoken within the boundaries of the nation, viz. the Southern, the Northern and the Northeastern. The Northern dialect had at one time its own special system of writing, but this is now virtually obsolete. At the present time, if the Northern dialect is written at all, it is written by using the letters of the standard system. The Northeastern dialect was formerly written in a system like that used by the Lao, mentioned above, but this too is now largely obsolete within the boundaries of Thailand.

At the present time the standard dialect of Bangkok together with the standard writing system used for that dialect is the literary medium taught in all the schools throughout the nation.

CHAPTER I

THE THAI CONSONANTS AND THEIR NAMES

1. General Remarks

The Thai system of writing, as a derivative of the Devanagari system, has retained the basic sequence of arrangement for consonants found in the Indic system. This sequence of arrangement constitutes the alphabetical order used in standard Thai dictionaries and must be memorized for an efficient use of such dictionaries. There are the following six major groups of consonants:

1. Velars
2. Palatals
3. Retroflexes (pronounced as dentals in Thai)
4. Dentals
5. Labials
6. Miscellaneous (the remaining sonorants and spirants and the glottal stop)

Because of historical changes that have taken place in the pronunciation of some of the consonants, not all of them are now pronounced in accordance with what we might expect from their position in the total sequence; but the deviations are relatively few and the reasons for them need not concern us here.

Within each of the first five of the major groups listed above the sequence shown on the following page is observed where pertinent. The sequence consists in five major categories based on phonetic criteria.

1. A. Voiced stop. MIDDLE (see Comment on p. 5).
Lacking in the velar and the palatal groups.
- B. Voiceless unaspirated stop. MIDDLE.
2. A. Voiceless aspirated stop with inherent rising tone. HIGH. In the velar group there are two consonants coming in this category but the second of the two is now obsolete.
- B. Voiceless spirant with inherent rising tone. HIGH. In the labial group only.
3. A. Voiceless aspirated stop with inherent middle tone. LOW. In the velar group there are three consonants coming in this category but the second of the two is now obsolete. The third one is described under 4 below.
- B. Voiceless spirant with inherent middle tone. LOW. In the labial group only.
4. Voiceless aspirated stop with inherent middle tone. LOW. Used to transcribe Sanskrit or Pali voiced aspirated stops.
5. Voiced nasal. LOW. In the standard dialect of Bangkok the nasal symbol of the palatal group is pronounced /j/ in initial position, /n/ in final position. In some provincial dialects the palatal nasal is pronounced as such, viz. /ñ/.

The complete list of the 44 consonants of the Thai alphabet is given on pp. 6-9. Of these the 3rd and 5th are obsolete, having been replaced by the 2nd and 4th, respectively. Standard Thai dictionaries and books on the alphabet still list all 44 consonants for the sake of completeness.

Each consonant letter is pronounced with the carrying vowel /-๑๑/. The consonant sound preceding the

/-๓๓/ is the phonetic value of that letter in syllable-initial position. Thus the letter ก /k๓๓/ has the sound /k-/ in syllable-initial position. Many consonants have a different phonetic value when they occur in syllable-final position. This is shown in charts on pp. 54 and 58.

There is also an inherent tone belonging to each consonant letter. This is either the middle tone, as in /k๓๓/, the 1st letter, or the rising tone, as in /kh๓๓/, the 2nd letter. This tone must be memorized as an integral part of the name of each consonant. See the comment below.

Comment. Thai consonants are divided into three major tonal classes known as MIDDLE, HIGH, and LOW. The constituent members of each of these classes are listed and discussed on pp. 10-13. All spelling rules having to do with the indication of tones are determined by this three-way classification. The inherent tone of all MIDDLE and all LOW consonants is the middle tone, e.g. /k๓๓/, the 1st letter and a MIDDLE consonant; /kh๓๓/, the 4th letter and a LOW consonant. The inherent tone of all HIGH consonants is the rising tone, e.g. /kh๓๓/, the 2nd letter and a HIGH consonant.

Each consonant letter has also been provided with an arbitrary designatory name to be used when spelling words orally. This arbitrary name is usually some common noun spelled with the letter so designated, e.g. /k๓๓ kàj/ "k๓๓ chicken." Rarer consonant letters, however, have often been given names referring to entities which are somewhat less familiar. Thai children learn to recite the alphabet by using these designatory names.

2. List of Consonants

Symbol	Thai Name	Transcription and Meaning
--------	-----------	---------------------------

V E L A R S

ก	ก ไก่	/kəw kâj/ chicken
ข	ข ไข่	/khəw khâj/ egg
ฅ	ฅ ขวด	/khəw khùad/ bottle [Obsolete] Replaced by letter #2 above.
ค	ค ควาย	/khəw khwaaj/ water buffalo
ฌ	ฌ คน	/khəw khon/ person [Obsolete] Replaced by letter #4 above.
ฆ	ฆ ระฆัง	/khəw rákhaŋ/ bell
ง	ง งู	/ŋəw ŋuu/ snake

P A L A T A L S

จ	จ จาน	/cəw caan/ plate
ฉ	ฉ ฉิ่ง	/chəw chin/ cymbal
ช	ช ช้าง	/chəw cháaŋ/ elephant
ซ	ซ โซ่	/səw sɔo/ chain
ฅ	ฅ กระเชอ	/chəw kàchəo/ tree (Camb.)
ญ	ญ หญิง	/jəw jin/ woman

Symbol Thai Name Transcription and Meaning

R E T R O F L E X E S (PRONOUNCED AS DENTALS)

ฎ	ฎ ฉดา	/doo chádaa/ tall headgear worn by actors
ฏ	ฏ ปัทก	/too pátàg/ (a) goad
ฐ	ฐ ฐาน	/thǔw thǎan/ base, pedestal
ฑ	ฑ นางมณโฑ	/thoo naanmonthoo/ name of a giant's wife in Ramayana epic
ฒ	ฒ ผู้เฒ่า	/thoo phũuthǎw/ old person
ณ	ณ เนน	/noo neen/ young Buddhist disciple

D E N T A L S

ด	ด เด็ก	/doo dèg/ child
ต	ต เต่า	/too tàw/ turtle
ถ	ถ ถุง	/thǔw thǔng/ sack, bag
ท	ท ทหาร	/thoo thǎhǎan/ soldier
ธ	ธ ธง	/thoo thon/ flag, emblem
น	น หนู	/noo nũu/ mouse, rat

Symbol Thai Name Transcription and Meaning

L A B I A L S

บ	ใบไม้	/บว bajmáaj/ leaf
ป	ปลา	/ปว plaa/ fish
ผ	ผึ้ง	/phวั phŷŋ/ bee
ฝ	ฝา	/fวั fǎa/ lid, cover
พ	พาน	/phวั phaan/ tray with pedestal base
ฟ	ฟัน	/fวั fan/ tooth, teeth
ภ	เภ้า	/phวั sǎmphaw/ a kind of sail boat, junk
ม	ม้า	/มว máa/ horse

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

ย	ยักษ์	/จว jág/ giant
ร	เรือ	/รว rya/ boat, ship
ล	ลิง	/ลว lin/ monkey
ว	แหวน	/พว wǎen/ fingerring
ศ	ศาลา	/สวั sǎalaa/ pavilion
ษ	ฤษี	/สวั ryysi/ hermit, anchorite
ฐ	เสือ	/สวั sŷa/ tiger

Symbol Thai Name Transcription and Meaning

M I S C E L L A N E O U S (CONTINUED)

ห	ห หีบ	/hǎw hlib/ box
พ	พ พาย	/lǎw cùlaa/ a kind of kite
อ	อ อ่าง	/'ǎw 'àaŋ/ basin
ฮ	ฮ นกฮูก	/hǎw nǒghŭug/ owl

HOW TO MAKE THE CONSONANT SYMBOLS

All consonants except ก /kǎw kàj/ and ท /thǎw thǎw/ are started with the production of their characteristic little CIRCLE. If there is more than one little circle start with the one on the left. The pen then moves up or down, to the right or the left, as required. It is very important to note whether the circle is to the RIGHT or to the LEFT of its connecting line. This is the only difference between ก and ก, and between อ and อ, i.e. between /khǎw khwaaj/ and /dǎw dǎg/ and between /thǎw thǎw/ and /phǎw sǎmphaw/, and others.

The symbol ก is made in two strokes. The left-hand line starts just under the "roof" and is made as a downward stroke. The second stroke starts at the same point, then moves around to the right and down. ท starts with a similar downward stroke but continues without the pen being lifted.

IF THE STUDENT WILL USE TRACING PAPER AND FIRST PRACTICE BY TRACING OVER THE LARGE SYMBOLS SHOWN ON PAGES 6-9 HE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO DO THEM FREEHAND.

3. The Three Classes of Consonants

Thai consonants are divided into three major tonal classes known as MIDDLE, HIGH, and LOW. The constituent members of these classes are shown on pp. 11-13. These must be memorized because the tonal markers (Chap. III, p. 25) used to indicate the tones have different values depending upon the class of the consonant with which they are being used. Within each class of consonants there are some which are used less frequently than others. This information is included in connection with the discussion of each of the three classes. It will prove useful to the student who wishes to learn to spell as rapidly as possible. See comment below.

Comment. It frequently happens that the same consonant sound of the Thai language is written by two or more different consonant letters. If the two or more consonant letters belong to different consonant classes there is no conflict. The tone of the syllable usually determines the class of the letter to be used. Thus with but one exception (described on p. 35) there is no conflict between /khǎǎ khàj/, a HIGH consonant, and /khǎǎ khwaaj/, a LOW consonant.

On the other hand, if two or more consonant sounds can be written with consonant letters belonging to the same class, a conflict arises. In such a case the choice of consonant letter is determined solely by the dictates of the rules of correct spelling. Thus there is a conflict between /khǎǎ khwaaj/, a LOW consonant, and /khǎǎ rákhan/, another LOW consonant. But even here it is possible to make a general statement which will be of great help to the student. Most words beginning

with the /kh-/ sound and having a tone which must be written with a LOW consonant are spelled with /kh๑ khwaaj/. Hence the student need only memorize those few words which must be spelled with /kh๑ rákhaŋ/. He can easily remember that all the rest are spelled with /kh๑ khwaaj/ whenever a LOW consonant is required.

MIDDLE CONSONANTS

There are nine MIDDLE consonants and they are pronounced with inherent middle tone on the carrying vowel /-๑๑/. They comprise all of the consonant symbols standing for voiced stops and voiceless unaspirated stops as shown below.

Voiced
Stops

Vl.Unasp.
Stops

		(၇) ဂ	ဃ	
ဂ	ဃ	(၇) ဂ	ဃ	ဝ

Comment 1. Conflicting symbols are boxed together and the rarer symbol is placed in parentheses. The retroflexes /d๑ chádaa/ and /t๑ pátáŋ/ occur in Sanskrit or Pali loanwords. The spelling of words containing them should be memorized.

Comment 2. Contrary to what is often stated, the letter ဝ /'๑ 'áaŋ/ is a true consonant in the Thai writing system and not merely a carrying symbol for vowels. It is a MIDDLE consonant and the values of the tonal markers used with it are precisely the same as they are for all the rest of the MIDDLE consonants.

HIGH CONSONANTS

There are eleven HIGH consonants and they are pronounced with inherent rising tone on the carrying vowel /-๓๓/. They comprise the Thai consonant symbols for one set of voiceless aspirated stops and one set of voiceless spirants as shown below.

Aspir. Stops	ก	ข	(ง) ค	ฅ	
Spirants		(ข)(ค) ก		ข	ฅ

Comment 1. Only ten symbols are shown in the chart. The extra one, /kh๓๓ kh๓๓/, is obsolete and has been completely replaced by /kh๓๓ kh๓๓/. Conflicting symbols are boxed together and the rarer symbol or symbols are placed in parentheses. The remaining symbols are unique.

Comment 2. For each HIGH consonant (or set of HIGH consonants identically pronounced) there is a corresponding LOW consonant (or set of LOW consonants identically pronounced). This pairing of HIGH and LOW consonants is shown in a chart on p. 34.

LOW CONSONANTS

The student should memorize all the MIDDLE consonants and all the HIGH consonants. He need then only remember that all of the remaining consonants of the alphabet are LOW consonants. There are in twenty-four LOW consonants and they are pro-

nounced with inherent middle tone on the carrying vowel /-əə/. They comprise two major groups of sounds:

- (1) a second set of voiceless aspirated stops and a second set of voiceless spirants, and
- (2) all of the voiced sonorants (nasals, semi-vowels and liquids). See the chart below.

Vl. Asp. Stops	န (အ)	ဗ (ဇ)	(ဖ)(ဗ) ဖ (ဗ)	ဖ (ဖ)	
Vl. Spir- ants		ဗ		ဖ	ဗ
Voiced Sonor- ants		ပ (ပ)		ဘ	
	↓	↑	(ဝ) ဝ	လ	
			(န) န		
			ဂ		

Comment. Only twenty-three symbols are shown in the chart. The extra one, /khəə khon/, is obsolete and has been completely replaced by the symbol known as /khəə khwaaj/. Conflicting symbols are boxed together and the rarer symbol or symbols are placed in parentheses. See also the list of regular and irregular initial consonants shown on pp. 41-42.

CHAPTER II

THE VOCALIC SYMBOLS

1. General Remarks

Vocalic symbols are either **SIMPLE** (composed of one part) or **COMPLEX** (composed of more than one part). Of the simple vocalic symbols, some are written before the consonant, some after the consonant, some above, some below. But in any case each vowel as a sound is always pronounced **AFTER** the consonant or consonant cluster which it accompanies.

The complex vocalic symbols are built up of two or more simple vowel and/or consonant symbols. Since the individual parts of a complex often have values which bear little or no relation to the values they have when used as simplexes, the student is urged to **MEMORIZE THE COMPLEX SYMBOLS AS UNITS**.

Most vocalic symbols occur in pairs of short and long. The last four symbols, however, are unpaired and stand for short /a/ plus /m, j, w/. Other combinations of short vowel plus sonorant and combinations of long vowel plus sonorant present no special difficulty. A chart showing the paired symbols and the four unpaired symbols is given on p. 15. The symbols are presented in their traditional order reading across, e.g. /sàrà? ʔàʔ/, /sàrà? ʔaa/, /sàrà? ʔiʔ/, /sàrà? ʔii/, etc. The word /sàrà?/ means "vowel." **MEMORIZE THE VOWEL SYMBOLS IN THE ORDER GIVEN** as an aid to the use of Thai dictionaries. The dash in the chart shows the position of the initial consonant.

All the vocalic symbols are shown in the form they take in syllable-final position. Some have other forms, as shown on p. 18.

In Thai textbooks the symbol for /sàràʔ ʔyy/ is given as ⁴ instead of ⁴0. The symbol ⁴0 is shown in the chart above because the vowel is always written thus in syllable-final position. The other form is used when the vowel is followed by a syllable-closing consonant (see p. 18).

There are two symbols for the combined sound /-aj/ and they are pronounced exactly alike in the standard dialect of Bangkok (see Comment below). The first symbol ǃ is known as /májmuán/ and the second symbol ǂ as /májálaaj/. There are in all twenty words which must be spelled with ǃ, most of them very common words. The complete list is given on p. 68. Almost all other words having the sound /-aj/ are spelled with ǂ, but there remain a very few which are spelled in a third way to be described later (see p. 23).

Comment. At the time the Thai writing system was developed ǃ and ǂ were NOT pronounced alike. What the phonetic distinction was at that time is not definitely known. There are modern dialects, however, which maintain a distinction between the two types of sounds. In Shan, for example, words which would be spelled with ǃ have a vowel cluster /-ay/, i.e. /a/ plus the high central vowel /y/, while words which would be spelled with ǂ are pronounced with /-aj/, just as in the Bangkok dialect, e.g.

SHAN	BANGKOK THAI	Meaning
/nay/	ǃu /naj/	in
/phaj/	ǂw /faj/	fire

3. The Phonetic Interpretation of "Short" Vowel Symbols

All of the "short" vowel symbols shown in the chart on p. 15 are actually pronounced as a short vowel (or vowel cluster) plus a syllable-closing consonant. This syllable-closing consonant is either the glottal stop /ʔ/, as in the first twelve symbols, or /m, j, w/, as in the last four. A glance at the chart will reveal the fact that the symbol -ɛ̄, known as /sàràʔ ʔàʔ/, is one which has a dual function. When used alone it stands for /-aʔ/, but when combined with other symbols it stands for a syllable-final /-ʔ/ with shortening of the preceding vowel. Hence no short vowel symbol containing -ɛ̄ as a component can ever be used to write a short vowel plus any other consonant. As a result of this fact, there are special combinatory symbols which have to be used to cover those situations in which -ɛ̄ cannot be used. These are shown in the following section.

Comment. The symbols $\overset{\sim}{\text{ɛ̄}}$, $\overset{\sim}{\text{ū}}$, and $\overset{\sim}{\text{ō}}$ are actually "fake" short vowels. They are listed as such because they contain -ɛ̄ as a component, but the true phonetic value of -ɛ̄ here, as explained above, is the final glottal stop /-ʔ/.

4. Additional Vocalic Symbols

There are nine additional simple and complex vowel symbols for use with all syllable-closing consonants except /-ʔ/, as explained above. Five are for short vowels and the rest are for long vowels or vowel clusters. In the chart on p. 18 a dash shows the position to be assumed by the initial consonant, a diagonal replaces the syllable-closing consonant.

Vocalic Symbols Used with Syllable-Closing Cons.

$\overset{c}{-}$	$\overset{c}{-}$	/-a-/ + C. See Comment 1.
$\overset{d}{-}$	$\overset{d}{-}$	/-yy-/ + C
$\overset{e}{-}$	$\overset{e}{-}$	/-e-/ + C. See Comment 2.
$\overset{\epsilon}{-}$	$\overset{\epsilon}{-}$	/-ε-/ + C
$\overset{o}{-}$	$\overset{o}{-}$	/-o-/ + C. ZERO symbol.
$\overset{c}{-}$	$\overset{c}{-}$	/-ɔ-/ + C. Rarely used.
$\overset{ee}{-}$	$\overset{ee}{-}$	/-ee-/ + C except H.
$\overset{ej}{-}$	$\overset{ej}{-}$	/-eaj/. See Comment 3.
$\overset{ua}{-}$	$\overset{ua}{-}$	/-ua-/ + C.

Comment 1. The symbol $\overset{c}{-}$ used in writing short /-a-/ plus C is called /májhǎn[?]aakàad/ "stick turning in the air."

Comment 2. The vowel shortening symbol $\overset{e}{-}$ used with /-e-/, /-ε-/, and occasionally /-ɔ-/ is called /májtǎjkhúu/. It cannot be used if tonal markers are required.

Comment 3. This symbol is actually the long vowel /-ee-/ plus /-j /, but since there is no such phonetic combination in Thai, the written combination can be used for /-eaj/ without ambiguity.

3. Examples of the Vocalic Symbols

The rules for the ways to indicate tones have not yet been given. The reader should therefore reserve all questions about the why of the tonal indications in the phonetic transcriptions below until he has read the chapter on the tonal markers (pp. 25-40). The explanation of the special devices used in the table below is as follows:

- F "final, i.e. not followed by added cons. to be pronounced in the same syllable"
 +C "followed by a syllable-closing consonant"

	Symbol	Example	Transcription
F	-ː	จะ	/càː/ will, shall
+C	-/	วัน	/wan/ day
F	-ː	มา	/maa/ to come
+C	Same	จาน	/caan/ plate
F	-ː	ติ	/tíː/ to criticize
+C	Same	หิน	/hín/ stone, rock
F	-ː	มี	/mii/ to have
+C	Same	ปีน	/piin/ to climb
F	-ː	ี	/rǐː/ (Var. form of the interrog. particle)
+C	Same	ดึง	/dyn/ to pull

	Symbol	Example	Transcription
F	ม	มือ	/myy/ hand
+C	ม/	คืน	/khyyn/ night
F	ต	ตุง	/cùʔ/ to be stuffed
+C	Same	ถุง	/thũŋ/ sack, bag
F	ดู	ดู	/duu/ to look
+C	Same	ถูกต้อง	/thùg/ to be right
F	เตะ	เตะ	/tèʔ/ to kick
+C	เต็ม	เต็ม	/tem/ to be full
F	เท	เท	/thee/ to pour
+C	Same	เพลง	/phleen/ song
F	และ	และ	/léʔ/ and
+C	แข็ง	แข็ง	/khěŋ/ to be hard, firm
F	แล	แล	/læe/ to see, watch
+C	Same	แดง	/deen/ to be red
F	โต๊ะ	โต๊ะ	/tóʔ/ table
+C	Zero	ฝน	/fõn/ rain
F	โต	โต	/too/ to be big, large
+C	Same	โมง	/moon/ o'clock

	Symbol	Example	Transcription
F	เ-าะ	เกาะ	/kǎʔ/ island
+C	เ-อ/	หือก	/rǎg/ (Emphatic particle)
F	-อ	พอ	/phǎw/ to be enough
+C	Same	ลอง	/lǎwŋ/ to try
F	เ-าะ	ผลั๊าะ	/phlǎʔ/ (onom. for sound of slapping, banging) RARE
F	เ-ัว	บัว	/bua/ lotus
+C	เ-ัว/	บวม	/buam/ to swell, be swollen
F	เ-ียะ	เก็ยะ	/diaʔ/ quick as a flash RARE
F	เ-ีย	เมีย	/mia/ wife
+C	Same	เสียง	/sian/ sound, tone, noise
F	เ-ือะ	เรือะ	/ʔyaʔ/ (name of the symbol shown) EXTREMELY RARE
F	เ-ือ	เรือ	/rya/ boat, ship
+C	Same	เรือน	/ryan/ house
F	เ-ือะ	เบือะ	/jǎʔ/ a whole lot
F	เ-อ	เธอ	/thəe/ you (familiar)
+C	เ-เ/	เดิน	/dsən/ to walk, proceed
+U	เ-ู	เนอ	/nəej/ butter

	Symbol	Example	Transcription
F	ḱ	ḱḱ	/kham/ word
F	ḱ-	ḱḱ	/caj/ heart, spirit (fig.)
F	ḱ-	ḱḱ	/paj/ to go
F	ḱ-	ḱḱ	/ʔaw/ to take

Additional remarks concerning the use of the last four symbols are given in the next section.

6. Short and Long Vowels Plus Sonorants

A very few short and long vowel plus sonorant combinations are written by means of special symbols, all of which have already been given. All remaining short and long vowel plus sonorant combinations are written out in full, i.e. one uses the proper +C vowel symbol followed by the appropriate consonant letter. Although two ways of writing /-aj/ have already been learned, two other ways, both of rare occurrence, are found. These, together with selected samples of other vowel plus sonorant combinations, are illustrated on the following pages (pp. 23-24).

Warning

Two of the most commonly used final sonorants are ʔ and ʔ, and in most cases they are to be read as /-j/ and /-w/, respectively. However, they also occur as components of complex vowel symbols already

learned (p. 15), and when they are used in this way they are NEVER read as /-j/ and /-w/. To avoid all confusion on this point the student is urged to memorize the following rules:

- เ-ย is ALWAYS read /-ia/.
- เ-ว is ALWAYS read /-ua/, NEVER /-aw/.
- เ-ง is the ONLY way to write /-aw/.
- วย is ALWAYS read /-uaj/.

7. Examples of Vowel plus Sonorant Combinations

A. READ WITH FINAL /-j/

Phon. Value	Writing	Example	Transcription
/-aj/	ไ-	ไกล	/klaj/ to be far
/-aj/ RARE	ไ-ย	ไทย	/thaj/ Thai
/-aj/ (20)	ไ-	ใคร	/khraj/ who, anyone
/-aj/ RARE	เ-ย	ภัย	/phaj/ danger
/-aaj/	-าย	ขาย	/khǎaj/ to sell
/-uaj/	-วย	สวย	/sǔaj/ to be pretty
/-yaj/	เ-ย	เรื่อย	/rǔaj/ to be continuous
/-əaj/	เ-ย	เคย	/kheaj/ ever
/-uj/	-ย	คุย	/khuj/ to chat
/-ooj/	ไ-ย	ไคย	/dooj/ by, with
/-waj/	เ-ย	หนียอกหนีย	/jǔgǔjǔj/ disheveled
/-waj/	-ย	ลอย	/lɔwj/ to float

~~~~~

## B. READ WITH FINAL /-w/

| Phon. Value | Writing | Example | Transcription       |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| /-aw/       | เ-ว     | เวว     | /raw/ we            |
| /-aaw/      | -ว      | ขาว     | /khāaw/ to be white |
| /-iaw/      | เ-ยว    | เขียว   | /khīaw/ to be green |
| /-iw/       | -ยว     | หิว     | /hīw/ to be hungry  |
| /-ew/       | เ-ว     | เร็ว    | /rew/ to be fast    |
| /-eew/      | เ-ว     | เลว     | /leew/ to be bad    |
| /-eew/      | แม-ว    | แมว     | /mæw/ cat           |

## C. READ WITH FINAL /-m, -n, -ŋ/

|            |       |       |                        |
|------------|-------|-------|------------------------|
| /-am/      | -ว    | ดำ    | /dam/ to be black      |
| /-am/ RARE | -ม    | กรัม  | /kram/ gram (< Fr.)    |
| /-aam/     | -สาม  | สาม   | /sāam/ three           |
| /-uam/     | -สาม  | สวม   | /sūam/ to put on, wear |
| /-an/      | -มัน  | มัน   | /man/ fat, oil         |
| /-aan/     | -งาน  | งาน   | /ŋaan/ work; ceremony  |
| /-oon/     | -นอน  | นอน   | /noon/ to lie (down)   |
| /-yan/     | เ-ยอน | เดือน | /dyan/ moon, month     |
| /-onŋ/     | -ลง   | ลง    | /lonŋ/ to descend      |
| /-oonŋ/    | เ-ยง  | โกง   | /koonŋ/ to be crooked  |

Comment. The above is only a small sample of the combinations with final /-m, -n, -ŋ/, but most of such combinations are entirely regular. Irregular ways of writing final /-an/ and /-oon/ are described and illustrated on pp. 55-56.

## CHAPTER III

### THE TONAL MARKERS

#### 1. Types of Syllables

There are two main types of syllables in Thai which must be distinguished in order to understand the rules for writing the tones. Using the terminology adopted by the Thai themselves, we may call them "live" syllables and "dead" syllables. Their characteristics are described below.

(1) Live syllables comprise the following:

A. All syllables ending in a long vowel or in a vowel cluster, e.g.

|    |       |       |      |       |       |
|----|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| กา | /kaa/ | crow  | หัว  | /hũa/ | head  |
| สี | /sii/ | color | เสือ | /sĩa/ | tiger |

B. All syllables ending in a sonorant. In the spoken language this is either a semivowel, i.e. /-j, -w/, or a nasal, i.e. /-m, -n, -ŋ/. In the written language it is a semivowel, a nasal, or a liquid (i.e. sounds which in initial position are pronounced /l-, r-/), but syllable-final liquids are normally pronounced /-n/, p. 54. Examples:

|        |        |            |       |         |                  |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|---------|------------------|
| ไฟ     | /faj/  | fire       | นำ    | /nam/   | to lead          |
| ดาว    | /daaw/ | star       | ลม    | /lom/   | wind             |
| เดี่ยว | /diaw/ | single     | เมือง | /myan/  | town             |
| ศีล    | /sĩin/ | moral code | ควร   | /khuan/ | should, ought to |



"Dead" syllables often need to be further distinguished depending on whether they contain a short or a long vowel. This is explained in the following sections.

## 2. The Tonal Markers and Their Names

All tonal markers are superscripts. They are placed over the initial consonant of the syllable whose tone they mark. But if the syllable begins in a consonant cluster, the tonal marker is placed over the second of the two consonants. And if that syllable already has a superscript vowel, the tonal marker is placed above the vowel.

| Symbol | Name     | Transcription                                                                                  |
|--------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br>— | ไม้เอก   | /máj <sup>1</sup> èeg/ "first stick," i.e. 1st tonal marker<br>Low or falling tone (see below) |
| ๒<br>— | ไม้โท    | /máj <sup>๒</sup> thoo/ 2nd tonal marker<br>Falling or high tone (see below)                   |
| ๓<br>— | ไม้ตรี   | /máj <sup>๓</sup> trii/ 3rd tonal marker<br>High tone                                          |
| ๔<br>— | ไม้จัตวา | /máj <sup>๔</sup> càdtàwaa/ 4th tonal marker<br>Rising tone.                                   |

The tonal values of these markers depend upon two conditioning factors, (1) the class of the syllable-initial consonant; see pp. 10-13, and (2) the nature of the syllable with which they are used, i.e. whether it is "live" or "dead"; see pp. 25-26. The rules are given in the following sections.

### 3. Tonal Markers and MIDDLE Consonants

#### A. Live Syllables

When used with a MIDDLE consonant initiating a live syllable the four tonal markers indicate the low, falling, high, and rising tones, respectively. Absence of a marker indicates the middle tone.

#### MIDDLE CONSONANT WITH LIVE SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example   | Transcription                              |
|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|
| (none) | Middle  | ປາ        | /paa/ to toss                              |
| ˉ      | Low     | ປ່າ       | /paa/ forest                               |
| ˋ      | Falling | ປ້າ       | /paa/ elder aunt                           |
|        |         | * * * * * | * * * *                                    |
| ˊ      | High    | ປ̄າ       | /kée/ to be counterfeit<br>( < Chinese)    |
| ˆ      | Rising  | ປ̂າ       | /kée/ to be chic (< Chin.)                 |
|        |         | ປ̃າ       | /cãa/ yes? (ans. when<br>called--intimate) |

#### Normal and Rare Tones

The normal tones for MIDDLE consonants with live syllables are the first three, i.e. those above the row of asterisks. The last two tones are relatively rare and are found mostly in the following types of words: (1) particles, (2) onomatopoeic or affective words, (3) recent loanwords taken from Chinese or English.

## B. Dead Syllables

When used with a MIDDLE consonant initiating a dead syllable, the same rules apply except that absence of a marker indicates the low tone.

MIDDLE CONSONANT WITH DEAD SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example   | Transcription                             |
|--------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------------|
| (none) | Low     | ຈະ        | /càʔ/ will, shall                         |
|        |         | ຈັ        | /càd/ to prepare                          |
|        |         | ບອນ       | /bòng/ to say to                          |
|        |         | * * * * * | * * *                                     |
| ˘      | Falling | ຈະ˘       | /câʔ/ yes (intimate)                      |
|        |         | ທຸ        | /tòb/ (imitative similar to Eng. "thud")  |
|        |         | ບ້ນ       | /ʔòng/ (imit. of vomiting sound)          |
| ˆ      | High    | ໂຕˆ       | /tòʔ/ table (< Chinese)                   |
|        |         | ເຈˆ       | /cég/ Chinese person (informal) (< Chin.) |
|        |         | ຈາˆ       | /cúag/ pure (of white) (restr. modifier)  |
|        |         | * * * * * | * * *                                     |
|        |         | * * * * * | * * *                                     |
| ˙      | Rising  | ຈະ˙       | /cǎʔ/ yes? (ans. when called--intimate)   |



## P o i n t s t o R e m e m b e r

(1) The first tonal marker is NEVER used with dead syllables since the low tone is shown by absence of a marker.

(2) The middle tone does not occur with dead syllables except as an alternate pronunciation of the short-vowel subvariety known as "neutralized" syllables (p. 26).

## N o r m a l a n d R a r e T o n e s

The most common tonal indication for dead syllables initiated by a MIDDLE consonant is the low tone shown by absence of a marker. The remaining tones occur only with particles, onomatopoeic or affective words, and with recent Chinese or English loanwords (cf. p. 28).

For all practical purposes one can say that the fourth tonal marker is NEVER used in dead syllables. The one and only such example that has been found in the recent Thai-Thai Dictionary is the one given. It is obviously a shortened or "clipped" form of /cǎa/ (see p. 28) which has the same usage.

### 4. Tonal Markers and HIGH Consonants

#### A. Live Syllables

There are only three tones used with live syllables initiated by HIGH consonants. These are the rising tone, shown by absence of a marker, and the low and falling tones, shown by the 1st and 2nd tonal markers, respectively. Other tones are taken care of in the writing system by the use of LOW consonants, as shown in the next section (pp. 32-34).

HIGH CONSONANT WITH LIVE SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example | Transcription        |
|--------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| (none) | Rising  | ເ໊າ     | /khāw/ he, she, they |
| —      | Low     | ເ໊າ     | /khāw/ knee          |
| —      | Falling | ເ໊າ     | /khāw/ to enter      |



B. Dead Syllables

When a HIGH consonant initiates a dead syllable absence of a tonal marker indicates the low tone. Any other tonal indication is RARE under these circumstances, but see the fourth example below.

HIGH CONSONANT WITH DEAD SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example   | Transcription                                           |
|--------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| (none) | Low     | ແຮະ       | /chèʔ/ to be damp, wet                                  |
|        |         | ສິບ       | /sib/ ten                                               |
|        |         | ຖູກ       | /thùg/ to be right                                      |
|        |         | * * * * * | * * *                                                   |
| —      | Falling | ມັກໜັກ    | /māgkhāg/ very (of degree of obesity) (restr. modifier) |



## 5. Tonal Markers and LOW Consonants

### A. Live Syllables

When a LOW consonant initiates a live syllable, absence of a marker indicates the middle tone, the 1st marker indicates the falling tone, and the 2nd marker indicates the high tone.

#### LOW CONSONANT WITH LIVE SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example | Transcription   |
|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| (none) | Middle  | ṯṯ      | /thaa/ to smear |
| ˊ      | Falling | ṯṯ̂     | /thâa/ port     |
| ˋ      | High    | ṯṯ̃     | /tháa/ to dare  |

### B. Dead Syllables

When a LOW consonant initiates a dead syllable, it makes a difference whether the vowel is SHORT or LONG.

If the vowel is SHORT, absence of a marker indicates the high tone, and in rare instances the 1st marker is used to indicate the falling tone. Moreover, with vowels not normally marked as short (except in those cases where <sup>4</sup> /májtàjkhúu/ can be used; see p. 18) the 1st marker indicates a SHORT vowel under the falling tone.

If the vowel is LONG, absence of a marker indicates the falling tone, and in rare instances the 2nd marker is used to indicate the high tone.

LOW CONSONANT WITH SHORT VOWEL IN DEAD SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example   | Transcription                                |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| (none) | High    | กข        | /láʔ/ to abandon                             |
|        |         | กข        | /láʔ/ to be secret                           |
|        |         | * * * * * |                                              |
| -      | Falling | กข        | /kháʔ/ yes (woman sp.)                       |
|        |         | มากหนัก   | /mághâg/ very (of degree of obesity)         |
|        |         | ล่องลอย   | /lôglôg/ to be restless, shifty, inattentive |

LOW CONSONANT WITH LONG VOWEL IN DEAD SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example   | Transcription         |
|--------|---------|-----------|-----------------------|
| (none) | Falling | พูด       | /phôud/ to talk, say  |
|        |         | * * * * * |                       |
| -      | High    | เชิ้ต     | /chéd/ shirt (< Eng.) |

## R a r e T o n e s

The use of the 1st marker with a short vowel in dead syllables occurs almost exclusively with particles, and these are few in number. In any other circumstances it is extremely rare.

The use of the 2nd marker with a long vowel in dead syllables is also very rare and occurs almost exclusively in certain loanwords from English. Such

words are also sometimes spelled with the 3rd marker instead of the 2nd, but this is considered incorrect by many, viz.

เชื๑น /chéed/ shirt (< Eng.)

The 2nd marker is used because it is associated with the high tone when used with LOW consonants, while the 3rd marker is used by some because it is unambiguously associated with the high tone through its use in that function with MIDDLE consonants (p. 29).

### 6. The Pairing of HIGH and LOW Consonants

The HIGH consonants (p. 12) are always voiceless aspirated stops or voiceless spirants, and for each HIGH consonant (or set of HIGH consonants identically pronounced) there is a corresponding LOW consonant (or set of LOW consonants identically pronounced.) This "pairing" of the HIGH and LOW aspirated stops and spirants is shown in the chart below. The obsolete letters of the velar series are omitted.

#### ASPIRATED STOPS AND SPIRANTS

|      |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |   |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---|
| HIGH | ก   | ค   | จ   | ก   | ค   | จ   | ท ษ ฐ | ห |
| LOW  | ก ฅ | ค ฅ | จ ฅ | ก ฅ | ค ฅ | จ ฅ | ท     | ฮ |

In order to learn the proper spelling of Thai syllables beginning in aspirated stops or spirants it is necessary to keep these two series in mind at all times and to be able to shift from a HIGH to a LOW aspirated stop or spirant at a moment's notice. The reason for this is that it is impossible to indicate the five tones used with live syllables and

the three normally used with dead syllables without using both series of consonants. The manner in which this shifting takes place in live syllables is illustrated in the chart below. A DASH indicates that the syllable having the tone indicated cannot be written with the consonant series indicated.

LOW AND HIGH SERIES IN LIVE SYLLABLES

| Tone    | LOW | HIGH | Transcription                  |
|---------|-----|------|--------------------------------|
| Middle  | ក្រ | —    | /khaan/ jaw                    |
| Low     | —   | ក្រ  | /khāan/ top (toy)              |
| Falling | ក្រ | ក្រ  | LOW /khāan/ long-tailed monkey |
|         | —   | ក្រ  | HIGH /khāan/ side              |
| High    | ក្រ | —    | /khāan/ to remain over         |
| Rising  | —   | ក្រ  | /khāan/ egg (< Camb.)          |

The chart reveals that in live syllables the falling tone may be written either way, but no other ambiguity exists. As far as pronunciation is concerned it makes no difference whether a HIGH or a LOW consonant is used. However, certain words must be spelled one way, others the other way. It thus turns out that some homonyms are distinguished in writing by this means. But homonyms are also distinguished by employing different identically pronounced HIGH or LOW consonants.

The manner of shifting from the LOW to the HIGH series in dead syllables is illustrated below. The rare tones are omitted (see pp. 31 and 33).

LOW AND HIGH SERIES IN DEAD SYLLABLES

| Tone | LOW | HIGH | Transcription |
|------|-----|------|---------------|
|------|-----|------|---------------|

Short Vowel

|     |   |     |                 |
|-----|---|-----|-----------------|
| Low | — | kh̄ | /khàb/ to drive |
|-----|---|-----|-----------------|

|      |     |   |                    |
|------|-----|---|--------------------|
| High | kh̄ | — | /kháb/ to be tight |
|------|-----|---|--------------------|

Long Vowel

|     |   |       |                         |
|-----|---|-------|-------------------------|
| Low | — | th̄eb | /thèeb/ region, section |
|-----|---|-------|-------------------------|

|         |       |   |                        |
|---------|-------|---|------------------------|
| Falling | th̄eb | — | /thêeb/ almost, nearly |
|---------|-------|---|------------------------|

7. The Conversion of Sonorants

All consonant symbols read as voiced sonorants are inherently LOW. In order to have a means by which all five tones may be written with syllables beginning in a voiced sonorant it is necessary to have some method of converting the LOW series of voiced sonorants into HIGH consonants. The device used for this purpose is to place the HIGH consonant ʰ /h̄ʒ h̄ib/ in front of the LOW sonorant which is to be converted. See the chart on p. 38.

When ʰ serves in this function it is known as ʰ ʰ̄ /h̄ʒ nam/ "h-preceding" (or "h-leading") and is pronounced. The resulting cluster of conson-

ants is then treated as a HIGH consonant and the value of the tonal markers used is the same as for the inherently HIGH consonants (pp. 30-31). This is illustrated in the charts below and on the following page. The tonal markers and superscript vowels are placed over the second consonant of the cluster.

CONVERTED HIGH SONORANT IN LIVE SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value   | Example | Transcription          |
|--------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| (none) | Rising  | หนา     | /nãa/ to be thick      |
| -      | Low     | หนอหนา  | /nõjɲãa/ custard apple |
| -      | Falling | หน่า    | /nãa/ face; front      |

CONVERTED HIGH SONORANT IN DEAD SYLLABLE

| Marker | Value | Example | Transcription                         |
|--------|-------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| (none) | Low   | เหมาะ   | /mãʔ/ to be suitable,<br>fit, fitting |
|        |       | หยิบ    | /jɪb/ to pick up                      |
|        |       | หลีก    | /lɪig/ to evade                       |

Just as LOW aspirated stops and spirants are paired with HIGH aspirated stops and spirants (see p. 34), so unconverted LOW sonorants are paired with converted HIGH sonorants, as shown on the following

page. As far as the writer has been able to ascertain, two of the sonorants,  $\text{ŋ}$  and  $\text{ŋ̃}$ , do not happen to occur in converted form and they are therefore omitted.

SONORANTS

|      |    |     |    |     |    |     |    |
|------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| LOW  | ๓  | ๓̃  | ๓  | ๓̃  | ๓  | ๓̃  | ๓  |
| HIGH | ๓๓ | ๓๓̃ | ๓๓ | ๓๓̃ | ๓๓ | ๓๓̃ | ๓๓ |

The chart immediately below illustrates the way in which all five of the tones may be written with syllables beginning in a voiced sonorant. Both unconverted and converted sonorants must be used, and the proper spelling of words involving the ambiguity in respect to the falling tone (compare p. 35) must always be memorized.

LOW AND HIGH SONORANTS IN LIVE SYLLABLES

| Tone    | LOW | HIGH | Transcription                                                                   |
|---------|-----|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Middle  | ๓๓  | —    | /naa/ paddy field                                                               |
| Low     | —   | ๓๓๓̃ | /nɔ̃jɲaa/ custard apple                                                         |
| Falling | ๓̃  | ๓̃   | LOW /ñaa/ inducing to, -able (e.g. <u>lovable</u> )<br>HIGH /ñaa/ face; front |
| High    | ๓̃  | —    | /ñaa/ younger maternal uncle or aunt                                           |
| Rising  | —   | ๓๓๓̃ | /ñaa/ to be thick                                                              |

LOW AND HIGH SONORANTS IN DEAD SYLLABLES

| Tone               | LOW | HIGH | Transcription             |
|--------------------|-----|------|---------------------------|
| <u>Short Vowel</u> |     |      |                           |
| Low                | —   | หดับ | /láb/ to close (the eyes) |
| High               | ดับ | —    | /láb/ to be secret        |

Long Vowel

|         |     |      |                         |
|---------|-----|------|-------------------------|
| Low     | —   | พวาก | /màag/ areca nut        |
| Falling | วาก | —    | /mâag/ to be much; very |

## R a r e T o n e s

Rare tones (i.e. the 1st tonal marker with a short vowel in a dead syllable and the 2nd tonal marker with a long vowel in a dead syllable) occasionally occur with unconverted LOW sonorants. The remarks on p. 33 therefore pertain to sonorants as well as to aspirated stops and spirants. Examples:

|      |                                                   |
|------|---------------------------------------------------|
| หดับ | /nê?/ (particle used to call attention to smthg.) |
| โหว  | /nóod/ notes (< Eng.)                             |

Comment. The consonant W is not the only silent letter used for purposes of conversion. The consonant 0 has a similar use in rare instances. See the following section.

## 8. Special Method of Converting the Palatal Semivowel

In the modern Thai language there are four common words in which the sonorant U is converted into a MIDDLE consonant by means of a preceding ฦ. When used in this function ฦ is known as ฦ น้ํา /ʔɔɔ nam/ "glottal stop-preceding" ("glottal stop-leading") and is not pronounced.

### FOUR WORDS SPELLED WITH ฦ น้ํา

| Spelling | Transcription                          |
|----------|----------------------------------------|
| ฦน้ํา    | /jâa/ don't, do not ... (prohibitive)  |
| ฦนุ      | /jâu/ to stay, remain, be at (a place) |
| ฦน้ํา    | /jâan/ kind, sort, variety; like       |
| ฦน้ํา    | /jâag/ to wish, wish to ...            |

All other instances in which ฦ precedes a sonorant, including other instances in which it precedes U, are covered by a different set of rules. See the discussion and examples on pp. 50 and 52-53.

Comment. The spelling of the four words shown above must be memorized. Two of them are homonyms with other words spelled with น้ํา, viz.

| Spelling | Transcription                       |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| ฦน้ํา    | /jâa/ to divorce ... (spouse)       |
| ฦน้ํา    | /jâag/ (see the two examples below) |
| ฦน้ํา    | /jâagjâa/ discarded material        |
| ฦน้ํา    | /jâagjâj/ cobwebs                   |

## CHAPTER IV

### I N I T I A L C O N S O N A N T S

#### 1. Regular and Irregular Initial Consonants

A study of the list of consonants (pp. 6-9) shows that a great many of them have identical pronunciations in initial position. The distinction between those of the HIGH and those of the LOW series is a necessary one for the purpose of indicating the various tones (pp.34-36). But even after allowance for this distinction has been made, there still remain many consonants of identical pronunciation within the same series. It is therefore advantageous to know which of two or more identically pronounced consonants of the same series may be considered the regular spelling for a given consonant sound and which may be considered irregular. See the chart below.

| Pronunciation<br>Initially | Regular<br>Spelling | Irregular<br>Spelling |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>S T O P S</u>           |                     |                       |
| k- MIDDLE                  | ŋ                   | —                     |
| kh- HIGH                   | ʃ                   | —                     |
| kh- LOW                    | ŋ                   | ʒ                     |
| c- MIDDLE                  | ʃ                   | —                     |
| ch- HIGH                   | ŋ                   | —                     |
| ch- LOW                    | ʃ                   | ŋ                     |
| d- MIDDLE                  | ŋ                   | ŋ. Very rarely ʃ.     |
| t- MIDDLE                  | ŋ                   | ŋ                     |

| Pronunciation Initially | Regular Spelling | Irregular Spelling |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|

S T O P S (CONT.)

|           |   |                                                         |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------------------------------|
| th- HIGH  | θ | þ                                                       |
| th- LOW   | ð | þ, ð, θ. But ð is also read /d-/ MIDDLE in a few words. |
| b- MIDDLE | β | —                                                       |
| p- MIDDLE | ɸ | —                                                       |
| ph- HIGH  | ɸ | —                                                       |
| ph- LOW   | β | θ                                                       |
| ?- MIDDLE | θ | —                                                       |

S P I R A N T S

|         |   |      |
|---------|---|------|
| s- HIGH | ʃ | þ, ð |
| s- LOW  | ʒ | —    |
| f- HIGH | ɸ | —    |
| f- LOW  | β | —    |
| h- HIGH | β | —    |
| h- LOW  | θ | —    |

S O N O R A N T S

|        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| ŋ- LOW | ŋ | — |
| n- LOW | ɲ | ɲ |
| m- LOW | ɱ | — |
| j- LOW | ɰ | ɰ |
| r- LOW | ʀ | — |
| l- LOW | ʎ | ʎ |
| w- LOW | ʋ | — |

Most words having irregular spelling as to initial consonants are of foreign origin (particularly of Pali or Sanskrit origin), but not all such words belong in this category.

Examples of common or reasonably common words which have irregular spelling as to syllable-initial consonant are given below.

|    | Example    | Transcription                                                                                 |
|----|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ฆ- | ฆา         | /khâa/ to kill                                                                                |
| ก- | กะเชอ      | /kâchêe/ tree (< Camb.)                                                                       |
|    |            | Not a common word. VERY RARE cons.                                                            |
| จ- | จกรกฏาคม   | /kârâgkâdaakhom/ July                                                                         |
|    |            | Additional irregularities in this and the following examples are discussed in later sections. |
| ด- | ปฏิบัติ    | /pâtibâd/ to do, act                                                                          |
| ฐ- | ฐานะ       | /thâanâ?/ status, position                                                                    |
| ช- | เธอ        | /thêe/ you (sp. to intimates)                                                                 |
| ท- | นาที       | /naathii/ minute (of time)                                                                    |
|    |            | Here ท is /th-/ LOW.                                                                          |
|    | บัณฑิต     | /bandid/ pundit                                                                               |
|    |            | Here ท is /d-/ MIDDLE.                                                                        |
| ฒ- | เฒ่า       | /thâw/ to be old, aged                                                                        |
| ภ- | ภาค        | /phâag/ part, section                                                                         |
| ผ- | ภาษา       | /phaasâa/ language                                                                            |
| ศ- | โศก        | /sôog/ sorrow; to be sorrowful                                                                |
| ณ- | ณ          | /ná?/ at, in, of (place or time)                                                              |
| จ- | หญ้า       | /jâa/ grass                                                                                   |
| ค- | กีฬา, กีฬา | /kiilaa, kilaa/ sport(s), athletics                                                           |

## 2. Initial Consonant Clusters and Groupings

All sorts of consonants may be written adjacent to one another at the beginning of the syllable but not all of these are pronounced as consonant clusters. Therefore only those which can be pronounced as true clusters will hereafter be called "consonant clusters." Those which cannot be so pronounced are termed "consonant groupings."

Syllable initial consonant clusters and groupings fall into three general subclasses: (1) Those pronounced as true consonant clusters, p. 46; (2) those pronounced as single consonants, pp. 47-48; and, as the most numerous subclass, (3) those pronounced in two syllables with intervening unwritten vowel, pp. 49-53. There is one general tonal rule which normally holds for all of these subclasses, viz.

If the second consonant is a sonorant the initial consonant is normally the governing consonant and the cluster or group is classified as MIDDLE, HIGH, or LOW depending on the classification of the first consonant. Examples:

|                              |          |                  |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| $\overset{\vee}{\text{กค}}$  | /klāa/   | to dare          |
| $\text{ขจว}$                 | /khwāan/ | ax               |
| $\overset{\vee}{\text{พรจ}}$ | /phrōm/  | to be ready, set |

Sporadic exceptions are discussed on pp. 52-53.

The arrangement of accompanying tonal and vocalic symbols with respect to clusters and groupings is also important. The rules follow: (1) All vowel symbols which follow single consonants are placed after the second consonant of the cluster or the grouping. (2) Those which precede single consonants are placed

before the first consonant except in circumstances described on pp. 52-53. (3) All tonal markers and superscript vowel symbols are written over the second consonant. (4) All subscript vowel symbols are written under the second consonant. (5) Each part of a complex vowel symbol is subject to that one of the preceding rules which is appropriate to it. The examples below illustrate these rules in order.

- |     |       |                                    |
|-----|-------|------------------------------------|
| (1) | ปลา   | /plaa/ fish                        |
|     | ตลาด  | /tálàad, ta-/ market               |
| (2) | แปล   | /plæ/ to translate                 |
|     | เพลง  | /phleeng/ song                     |
| (3) | ครั้ง | /khráŋ/ time, instance             |
|     | ชนิด  | /chánid, cha-/ kind, sort          |
| (4) | ครู   | /khruu/ teacher                    |
| (5) | เพราะ | /phrǎʔ/ because                    |
|     | เสมอ  | /sámǎe, sa-/ to be even;<br>always |

Syllables which begin in a consonant cluster or grouping and contain the short unwritten o-vowel followed by a consonant will be written as three consonants in a row, e.g.

- |     |                       |
|-----|-----------------------|
| กลม | /klom/ to be round    |
| ถนน | /thánǎn, tha-/ street |

### 3. True Consonant Clusters

The phonetic composition of true consonant clusters is (1) an unaspirated or aspirated voiceless stop followed by (2) /r/, /l/, or /w/. The chart on the following page shows the permissible clusters

arranged according to series (as determined by the first consonant).

PERMISSIBLE CONSONANT CLUSTERS

|        |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MIDDLE | กฏ | กถ | กฏ | ทฏ | ปฏ | ปล |
| HIGH   | ขฏ | ขถ | ขฏ |    | ผฏ | ผถ |
| LOW    | คฏ | คถ | คฏ |    | พฏ | พถ |

Examples

|     |          |                              |
|-----|----------|------------------------------|
| กฏ- | กฏง      | /kron/ cage                  |
| กถ- | กถา      | /klāa/ to dare               |
| กฏ- | กฏา      | /kwāa/ more than             |
| ทฏ- | ทฏง      | /tron/ to be straight        |
| ปฏ- | ปฏง      | /prātuu, pra-/ door          |
| ปล- | ปลา      | /plaa/ fish                  |
| ขฏ- | เจ้าขฏ   | /cāwkhruā/ rich man          |
| ขถ- | โขดขถ    | /khlōon/ herd (of elephants) |
| ขฏ- | ขวา      | /khwāa/ right (side)         |
| ผฏ- |          | RARE                         |
| ผถ- | แผล      | /phlǎε/ (a) wound            |
| คฏ- | เครื่อง  | /khr̄yan/ instrumentation    |
| คถ- | คล้าย    | /khlāaj/ to resemble         |
| คฏ- | ควัน     | /khwān/ smoke                |
| พฏ- | พรุ่งนี้ | /phr̄ūnnii/ tomorrow         |
| พถ- | พลอย     | /phlōjj/ precious stone      |

Note that some of the "irregular" initial consonants (pp. 41-42) coinciding in pronunciation with some

of those above (e.g. ฎ, ฏ, ฏ, ฏ, ฏ) do not happen to occur in true clusters.

#### 4. Special Initial Consonant Groupings Pronounced as Single Consonants

Initial consonant groupings pronounced as single consonants always have ๑ as their second consonant. In general one need only remember that the ๑ is silent. One combination, however, is unique in that the pronounced consonant bears no relation to either of the component written consonants (rule 1 below).

Rule 1. The combination ๑๑- is usually pronounced /s/ and the series is LOW.

Pronounced /s-/ LOW

|     |       |                                                                  |
|-----|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ๑๑- | ๑๑๑   | /saaʃ/ (1) sand. (2) hog-deer                                    |
|     | ๑๑๑   | /sâab/ to know (elegant word)                                    |
|     | ๑๑๑   | /saj/ banyan (tree)                                              |
|     | ๑๑๑   | /soŋ/ (1) form, structure. (2) Precedes verbs if sp. of royalty. |
|     | ๑๑๑   | /sâb/ wealth, money                                              |
|     |       | (The new symbol ๑ is a cancellation sign, p. 63.)                |
|     | ๑๑๑   | /sâd/ to subside, drop (as into chair)                           |
|     | ๑๑๑๑๑ | /krâsuaŋ, kra-/ ministry (of gov't)                              |

Rule 2. The combinations ๑๑- and ๑๑- are usually pronounced /s/, HIGH series.

Pronounced /s-/ HIGH

|     |       |                                   |
|-----|-------|-----------------------------------|
| ๑๑- | ๑๑    | /sîi/ splendor, excellence, glory |
|     | ๑๑๑๑๑ | /sâedthâkîd, -tha-/ economics     |

|     |          |                |                          |
|-----|----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| กร- | เศรษฐี   | /sèedthīi/     | rich person, millionaire |
|     | เศร้า    | /sāw/          | to be sad, sorrowful     |
|     | โศกเศร้า | /sòogsāw/      | to be sad, sorrowful     |
| สร- | สร้อย    | /sāj/          | neck ornament, bracelet  |
|     | สร้าง    | /sāan/         | to get sober             |
|     | สร้าง    | /sāan/         | to build, construct      |
|     | เสร็จ    | /sèd/          | to be finished, through  |
|     | ประเสริฐ | /pràsèd, pra-/ | to be excellent          |
|     | สระ      | /sàʔ/          | (1) pond. (2) to shampoo |

Comment. The last example above, comprising two homonyms, is additionally a homograph with still another word of different pronunciation and meaning (see the rules on pp. 49-50), viz.

สระ /sàràʔ, sa-/ vowel

Rule 3. In one important and very common word the combination จิ- is pronounced /c/, MIDDLE series.

Pronounced /c-/ MIDDLE

จิ- จิง /ciŋ/ to be true, sincere

In other instances this combination is not so pronounced (see p. 50).

### E x c e p t i o n s

Every one of the combinations discussed in this section can also be pronounced in accordance with the rules given in the immediately following section (pp. 49-50). The spelling rules are therefore entirely arbitrary and the examples in both sections must be memorized for ease in reading and writing.

## 5. Initial Consonant Groupings Pronounced in Two Syllables

Initial consonant groupings which are not or cannot be pronounced as true clusters (pp. 45-46) or as single consonants (pp. 47-48) are pronounced in two syllables by the intrusion of an unwritten vowel after the first of the two consonants. In most cases this intruded vowel is /-a-/, as described below; but in rare instances it is /-ɔɔ-/~ /-ɔ-/, as discussed on pp. 51-52.

The normal rules for determining the tones of the intruded syllable and the syllable which follows it are given below with examples. Exceptions are illustrated on pp. 52-53.

### A. HIGH Consonant Preceding

A preceding HIGH consonant converts a following low sonorant into a HIGH consonant. Both syllables are then pronounced according to the rules for HIGH consonants. In rapid speech, however, the first syllable (containing the intruded /-a-/) is subject to a neutralization of tone. This means that the vowel is pronounced on a middle tone. This pronunciation is shown below as a variant after a comma.

|        |                                                    |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------|
| เสมอ   | /sâm <sup>55</sup> , sa-/ to be even; always       |
| เสมียน | /sâm <sup>55</sup> ian, sa-/ clerk, office worker  |
| ถนน    | /thàn <sup>55</sup> õn, tha-/ street, road         |
| ฝรั่ง  | /fàrà <sup>55</sup> n, fa-/ Occidental             |
| 擠      | /khà <sup>55</sup> jii, kha-/ to squeeze, crush    |
| สนุก   | /sàn <sup>55</sup> ùg, sa-/ to have fun, be amused |
| แผนก   | /phàn <sup>55</sup> èg, pha-/ department           |
| ฉลาด   | /chà <sup>55</sup> làad, cha-/ to be clever        |

## B. MIDDLE Consonant Preceding

A preceding MIDDLE consonant converts a following LOW sonorant into a MIDDLE consonant. Both syllables are then pronounced according to the rules for MIDDLE consonants. In rapid speech the first syllable is subject to neutralization.

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| เจริญ | /càrsen, ca-/ to progress, advance   |
| ตลิ่ง | /tálin, ta-/ bank, shore             |
| อร่อย | /ʔarǝj, ʔa-/ to be delicious         |
| องุ่น | /ʔànùn, ʔa-/ grape                   |
| ทองคำ | /kàndòg, ka-/ gold (literary word)   |
| ตลก   | /tálòg, ta-/ to be amusing, humorous |
| ตลาด  | /tálàad, ta-/ market, market place   |
| จมูก  | /càmùug, ca-/ nose                   |

## C. Unconverted Consonants

With all other combinations of consonants no conversions take place. Therefore each of the two consonants governs the tone of its own syllable in accordance with the rules for its own series, whatever that may be. In rapid speech neutralization occurs.

|       |                                                   |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|
| สบาย  | /sàbaaj, sa-/ to be well, comfortable             |
| สติ   | /sàtiʔ, sa-/ mind, consciousness                  |
| สถานี | /sàthāanii, sa-/ station (railroad)               |
| สหาย  | /sàhāaj, sa-/ friend                              |
| สภา   | /sàphaa, sa-/ house, body (organization)          |
| เฉพาะ | /chàphǝʔ, cha-/ to be special                     |
| ทหาร  | /tháhāan, tha-/ soldier, member of an armed force |

|      |                |                     |
|------|----------------|---------------------|
| ชนิด | /chánid, cha-/ | kind, sort, variety |
| พม่า | /phámâa, pha-/ | Burma; Burmese      |
| นรก  | /náróg, na-/   | hell                |

#### D. Variations in Spelling

Prior to the appearance of the latest Thai dictionary issued by the Ministry of Education in 1950, some of the words listed under C above were spelled with written -๕ inserted after the first consonant. The McFarland Thai-English Dictionary, widely used by English-speaking students of Thai, was issued before the time of this change and therefore has the old spelling for such words. A few examples are:

| New Way | Old Way | Transcription                      |
|---------|---------|------------------------------------|
| เฉพาะ   | ๕เฉพาะ  | /chàphá?, cha-/ to be special      |
| ชนิด    | ๕ชนิด   | /chánid, cha-/ kind, sort, variety |
| พม่า    | ๕พม่า   | /phámâa, pha-/ Burma; Burmese      |

Many other words having similar sound combinations are still spelled with -๕, e.g.

|       |                |        |
|-------|----------------|--------|
| ๕ฉี่  | /chánii, cha-/ | gibbon |
| ๕ทะเล | /thálee, tha-/ | sea    |

For other examples the student is referred to the writer's THAI VOCABULARY (ACLS, 1955).

#### 6. The Intruded Vowel /-๖๖-/ ~ /-๖-/

In special cases an initial consonant grouping which cannot be pronounced as a true consonant cluster is pronounced in two syllables by the intrusion of /-๖๖-/ or sometimes /-๖-/ in rapid speech if the first consonant is MIDDLE or LOW. Most of the group-

ings which come in this category contain U, ʌ, ʏ, or ɨ followed by ʃ, but other types of examples occur sporadically. (Any additional spelling irregularities in the examples below are taken up later.)

|    |           |                          |                      |
|----|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| ๒- | บรม       | /bɔɔrom, bɔ-/            | supreme              |
|    | บริบูรณ์  | /bɔɔribuun, bɔ-/         | to be complete       |
|    | บริเวณ    | /bɔɔriween, bɔ-/         | environs, vicinity   |
|    | บริษัท    | /bɔɔrisàd, bɔ-/          | company, firm        |
|    | บริสุทธิ์ | /bɔɔrisùd, bɔ-/          | to be pure           |
|    | อธิบดี    | /ʔathibɔɔdii, ʔa...-bɔ-/ | head of a department |
| ๓- | มรกต      | /mɔɔrákòd, mɔra-/        | emerald              |
|    | มรดก      | /mɔɔrádòg, mɔra-/        | inheritance          |
|    | มรสุม     | /mɔɔrásùm, mɔra-/        | monsoon              |
| ๓- | ทรมาน     | /thɔɔrámaan, thɔra-/     | to persecute         |
| ๓- | ธรณี      | /thɔɔráanii, thɔra-/     | the world, earth     |
| ๓- | จระเข้    | /cɔɔrákhêe, cɔra-/       | crocodile            |
| ๓- | มหรสพ     | /máhɔɔrásòb, ma...-ra-/  | (an) entertainment   |

### 7. Exceptions in the Treatment of Consonant Groupings

It may be stated as a general rule that an initial HIGH or MIDDLE consonant will govern the tone of a following LOW sonorant when no written vowel intervenes (pp. 49-50), but this rule is not an invariable one. In some cases a following LOW sonorant will remain LOW. In such cases, too, the normally preposed ɨ- and ʌ- vowels will be placed in front of the second instead of the first consonant;

see, for instance, the third example cited below.

The unconverted LOW sonorant is underlined in the phonetic transcription below. Any additional spelling irregularities are explained later.

#### Unconverted LOW Sonorants

|          |                                                           |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| สมาคม    | /sà <u>m</u> aakhom, sa-/ club, society                   |
| สมาชิก   | /sà <u>m</u> aachig, sa-/ member (of a club)              |
| สโมสร    | /sà <u>m</u> oos໋ວນ, sa-/ club, association               |
| พาหนะ    | /phaahà <u>n</u> á?, -ha-/ vehicle                        |
| ไปรษณีย์ | /prajsà <u>n</u> ii, -sa-/ mail, post                     |
| อนุญาต   | /ʔà <u>n</u> újàad, ʔa-/ to permit, allow                 |
| อนุมัติ  | /ʔà <u>n</u> úmad, ʔa-/ permission                        |
| อยุธยา   | /ʔà <u>j</u> údtájaa, ʔa-...-tha-/ Ayutthaya<br>(Ayuthia) |

It may also be stated as a general rule that when two consonants which are written together comprise a permissible consonant cluster they will be pronounced as such (p. 46). But here again there are exceptions, as shown in the examples below.

#### Consonant Groupings Instead of Clusters

|         |                                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|
| กรุณา   | /kà <u>r</u> únaa, ka-/ mercifulness        |
| กวี     | /kà <u>w</u> ii, ka-/ poet                  |
| ปริมาณ  | /pà <u>r</u> ímaan, pa-/ quantity, supply   |
| ปริญญา  | /pà <u>r</u> injaa, pa-/ diploma, degree    |
| อันตราย | /ʔà <u>n</u> tàraaj, -ta-/ harm, injury     |
| พลัง    | /phá <u>l</u> á?, pha-/ (physical) strength |

Many other examples of such exceptions can be found in any dictionary, but most words of this type are literary or otherwise specialized.

## CHAPTER V

### FINAL AND MEDIAL CONSONANTS

#### 1. Voiced Sonorants in Final Position

There are ten voiced sonorant symbols whose pronunciation in initial position is the same as the initial letter of the name attached to the symbol. As far as spelling is concerned all of these may occur in syllable final as well as syllable initial position. However, the only sonorant sounds which can normally occur in final position are /-j, -w, -ŋ, -n, -m/. Because of this limitation some of the written symbols have a special pronunciation when occurring in syllable final position, as shown in the chart below.

#### VOICED SONORANTS IN FINAL POSITION

|                        |    |                    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|----|--------------------|----|----|----|
| Symbol                 | ɟ  | <u>ŋ</u> ɹ ɻ ɺ ɽ ʃ | ɹ  | ɻ  | ɺ  |
| Phon. Value when Final | -ŋ | -n                 | -m | -j | -w |

The regular spelling for final /-n/ is ɺ as is shown by underlining in the chart above. The other symbols represent irregular spelling. The symbol ɟ was originally a palatal nasal /ɲ/, but it is now pronounced as a palatal semivowel /j-/ in initial position and as a dental nasal /-n/ in final position. The symbols ɹ, ɻ, and ʃ are all pronounced /-n/, their homorganic nasal, when found in syllable final position.

Examples of important words having irregular spelling in respect to syllable final voiced sonorants are shown on the following page.

## Irregular Final Sonorants

|    |        |                                                                    |
|----|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -ม | ประมาณ | /pràmaan/ about, approximately                                     |
|    | คุณ    | /khun/ you (to equals); (title placed before given name); goodness |
| -ก | สำคัญ  | /sǎmkhan/ to be important                                          |
|    | สัญญา  | /sǎnjaa/ to promise                                                |
| -ด | ตาล    | /taan/ sugar palm (tree)                                           |
|    | รัฐบาล | /rádthábaan, -tha-/ the government (see p. 61 also)                |
| -ท | ปลาวาฬ | /plaawaan/ whale                                                   |
| -ร | การ    | /kaan/ work; act of ...-ing                                        |
|    | ทหาร   | /tháhǎan, tha-/ soldier                                            |
|    | อาหาร  | /ʔaahǎan/ food                                                     |
|    | ควร    | /khuan/ ought to, should                                           |

Exceptions. Some speakers of Thai who have learned English will sometimes pronounce final /-l/ in English loanwords. For such words two pronunciations are shown, e.g.

ฟุตบอล /fúdbɔɔn ~ fúdbɔɔl/ football (< Eng.)

## 2. Special Rules Concerning -ร and -รร

When a single ร follows another consonant and at the same time stands at the end of the syllable it is pronounced /-ɔɔn/. Important examples are:

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| พร    | /phɔɔn/ blessing, blessings          |
| อักษร | /ʔǎgsɔɔn/ letter of the alphabet     |
| นคร   | /nákhɔɔn, na-/ city                  |
| ละคร  | /lákhɔɔn, la-/ play, drama           |
| สโมสร | /sámoosɔɔn, sa-/ club, association   |
| ถาวร  | /thǎawɔɔn/ to be permanent, enduring |

When double ʔ follows a consonant it is pronounced (1) as /-an/ if no other pronounced consonant follows in the same syllable, and (2) as /-a-/ if another pronounced consonant does follow. Double ʔ is often referred to as ʔ ฆ /rɔɔ hǎn/. Examples:

Double ʔ read as /-an/

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| กกรกร | /kankraj/ scissors                   |
| บกร   | /bancùʔ/ to fill                     |
| บกรทก | /banthúg/ to load, load onto         |
| บกรทก | /banthaw/ to get relief, be relieved |
| ศกรกร | /sàwǎn, sa-/ heaven                  |

Double ʔ read as /-a-/

|        |                                                      |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------|
| กกรม   | /kam/ misfortune; object (of a verb)                 |
| กสิกรม | /kàsikam, ka-/ agriculture                           |
| ทกรม   | /tham/ Buddhist teaching, dharma                     |
| ทกรมก  | /thammádaa, -ma-/ to be common, ordinary (see p. 60) |

### 3. Stops and Spirants in Final Position:

There are thirty-four consonant symbols for stops and spirants. Of these, two of the velar stops are no longer used in any position (p. 6) and an additional six are never written in final position as consonants to be pronounced. In other words, they do not function as syllable-closing consonants. These six consonants are the following:

ก      ข      ฉ      ฆ      ฌ      ฅ

Although ฌ does not occur in final position as a consonant symbol, it does occur at the end of syllable-

bles as part or all of certain vowel symbols (p. 21).

The remaining twenty-six symbols for stops and spirants occur as written symbols in final position, but the majority of them have a different pronunciation in this position from what they have in syllable initial position. The reason for this is that in normal Thai speech voiceless aspirated and unaspirated stops and voiceless spirants do not occur as pronounced consonants in final position. The only stops which can be pronounced in this position are the voiced stops /-b, -d, -g/ and the glottal stop /-ʔ/. Final /-ʔ/ is not indicated by a definite consonant symbol in the writing system, but is represented instead by the -ɿ symbol employed for short vowels not followed by a syllable-closing consonant (pp. 15 and 17). There is therefore nothing further to be explained about this sound as far as the writing system is concerned. The rules for the remaining stops and spirants occurring in final position are as follows:

(1) Words which have regular spelling for the stop sounds in final position employ ๑ for /-g/, ๒ for /-d/, and ๓ for /-b/.

(2) All other types of written final stops and spirants are pronounced as /-g, -d, -b/ depending upon their position of articulation. Hence all having the velar position are pronounced /-g/, all in the palatal and dental (including retroflex) position are pronounced /-d/, and all having the labial position are pronounced /-b/. See the summary chart which is presented on the following page.

## STOPS AND SPIRANTS IN FINAL POSITION

|                             | Velar    | Palatal  | Dental       |          | Labial   |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
|                             |          |          | Retro. Dent. | Dent.    |          |
| Voiced Stops                |          |          | ဂ            | ဂ        | ပ        |
| Voiceless Unaspirated Stops | က        | ခ        | ဂ            | က        | ပ        |
| Voiceless Aspirated Stops   | က<br>က ဘ | ခ<br>ခ ဝ | ဂ<br>ဂ ဘ     | က<br>က ဝ | ပ<br>ပ ဝ |
| Voiceless Spirants          |          | န ယ ဝ    |              |          | ဖ        |
| PHONETIC VALUE              | -g       |          | -d           |          | -b       |

The six symbols mentioned on p. 56 as not occurring in final position are omitted from the chart. The symbols employed in regular spelling are enlarged. Examples of words having irregular spelling with respect to final stops and spirants are shown below.

## Irregular Final Stops and Spirants

- ဂ လေ့ /læeg/ numeral, figure
- က လိုက /rōog/ disease
- ခ မေ့ /mæeg/ cloud
- ဂ ကာဂ /trūad/ to inspect, examine
- ဂ ဖိဂ /phŷyd/ vegetation, plants
- ဂ ကဝ် /kōd/ rule, law
- ဂ ပြာကဝ် /praakōd/ to appear, become manifest
- ဂ ဝိဂ် /rād/ state, nation

|    |           |                                    |
|----|-----------|------------------------------------|
| -ก | ก         | /wád/ to grow, prosper (literary)  |
| -ค | ชีวิต     | /chiiwíd/ life                     |
| -ด | รถ        | /róđ/ car                          |
| -ท | บาท       | /báad/ baht, tical (monetary unit) |
| -ร | โกรธ      | /kròđ/ to be angry                 |
| -น | รูป       | /rúub/ picture; form, shape        |
| -พ | ภาพ       | /pháab/ picture, image             |
| -ภ | ลาภ       | /láab/ acquisition, gain, fortune  |
| -ช | ประเทศไทย | /práthâed, pra-/ country (nation)  |
| -ษ | โทษ       | /thòđ/ punishment                  |
| -ธ | รส        | /róđ/ taste, flavor                |

### Exceptions

Some speakers of Thai who have learned English sometimes pronounce syllable final /-f/ and /-s/ in recent English loanwords. For such words two pronunciations are shown, e.g.

กอล์ฟ /kǎb ~ kǎf/ golf (< Eng.)

เทนนิส /thenníđ ~ thennis/ tennis (< Eng.)

#### 4. Medial Consonants Having Double Function

Some medial consonants which stand before another consonant, as far as spelling is concerned, have a double function which may be described as follows:

- (1) The consonant is pronounced at the end of the syllable in conformance with the rules given for finals on pp. 54-55 (sonorants) and pp. 56-59 (stops and spirants), and

(2) the consonant is pronounced a second time as a syllable on its own account with the addition of an intruded /-a-/ after the manner of initial consonant groupings pronounced in two syllables (see paragraphs A and B below); or, in rarer instances, it initiates a new syllable pronounced with following written vowel (paragraph C below).

Because of the limitations on the phonetic level in respect to permitted final consonants, a medial consonant with double function often has two different sounds, one in its function as a syllable final consonant and another in its function as a syllable initial consonant. The rules for the tones on the intruded syllable (if any) and on the syllable which follows it are the same as those for initial consonant groupings pronounced in two syllables (pp. 49-50).

#### A. Medial Sonorants with Double Function

- น- ขุนนภาพ /khunnápháab, -na-/ quality  
 วัณโรค /wannárōog, -na-/ tuberculosis
- น- ทินกร /thinnákoon, -na-/ the sun (elegant)
- ม- คณะกรรมการ /khommánaakhom, -ma-/ communication  
 กรรมการ /kammákaan, -ma-/ committee  
 ช่างธรรมดา /thammádaa, -ma-/ to be common, ordinary
- จ- ภรรยา /phanrájaa, -ra-/ wife (elegant)
- Here the second ้ of a double ้ has double function. See Comment 2 and also paragraph D below.
- ล- ผลไม้ /phōnlámáaj, -la-/ fruit (elegant)  
 พลเมือง /phonlámyan, -la-/ population
- อ- อวัยวะ /ʔawajjájáwáʔ, ʔa...-ja-/ organ (of the body)

Comment 1. จ, ฉ, ฌ and ฎ are not found in medial position with double function.

Comment 2. ฎ does not occur in this function except when double ฎ is involved. Instead medial ฎ followed by another written consonant is pronounced in some words as /-n/ (i.e. as a syllable final) and in other words as /-rá-/ (i.e. as a syllable in its own right), but not in both functions, e.g.

มารดา /maandaa/ mother (elegant)

สารบาญ /sāarābaan, -ra-/ table of contents

#### B. Medial Stops and Spirants with Double Function

- ก- ปุรกติ /prògkàti?, -ka-/ to be normal
- ตุ๊กตา /túgkàtaa, -ka-/ doll
- สกปรก /sògkàpròg, -ka-/ to be dirty
- จ- กิจกรรม /kidcàkaan, -ca-/ work, activity
- ช- ราชการ /rāadchákaan, -cha-/ gov't service
- ฐ- รัฐบาล /rādthābaan, -tha-/ the government
- ฑ- วัฒนา /wādthānaa, -tha-/ to progress
- ท- จักรวาล /càdtāwaa, -ta-/ four (eleg. and tech.)
- ฑ- วิทยา /widthhājaa, -tha-/ a science
- ธ- อยุทธยา /ʔājúdtthājaa, ʔa...-tha-/ Ayutthaya (Ayuthia)
- ป- สัปดาห์ /sàbpaadaa, -pa-/ week (elegant)
- อุปสรรค /ʔùbpaasàg, -pa-/ obstacle, difficulty
- พ- ภาพยนตร์ /phāabphájon, -pha-/ motion pictures (eleg.)
- อพยพ /ʔòbphájób, -pha-/ to emigrate
- ท- เทศบาล /thāedsābaan, -ssa-/ municipality

Medial ฌ, ฎ or ฎ may be pronounced as -ssa- instead of -dsa- in rapid speech.

- ปราศจาก /práadsàcàag, -ssa-/ without  
 -๒- โฆษณา /khòodsànaa, -ssa-/ to advertise  
 Here ๒ does not govern; see p. 52  
 and contrast with the next example.  
 -๓- ศาสนา /sàadsànaa, -ssa-/ a religion

Sometimes double function involves a medial consonant cluster, e.g.

จักรยาน /càgkràjaan, -kra-/ bicycle

### C. Double Function without Intruded Vowel

In some cases double function is found without the addition of an intruded vowel, e.g.

- พระเชตุพน /phráchêedtùphon/ name of a temple  
 ศัตรู /sàdtruu/ enemy, foe  
 อัตรา /ʔàdtraa/ rate (as of exchange)  
 มาตรา /màadtraa/ system (as of measurement)  
 สถิติ /sàthidtɿʔ, sa-/ statistics

### D. Suppression of Double Function

Some words which were formerly pronounced with double function are now usually pronounced without it, and a few words fluctuate in pronunciation.

- ภรรยา /phanrájaa ~ phanjaa/ wife (elegant)  
 ราชบุรี /ráadbùrii/ Ratburi (name of a town)  
 เพชรบุรี /phédbùrii/ Phetburi (name of a town)

Until fairly recently the last two examples were often pronounced /ráadchábùrii, -cha-/ and /phédchá-bùrii, -cha-/, respectively.

### 5. Cancellation of Final Consonants

A special symbol — known by the two names given below is often used to show that a final consonant is not to be pronounced.

ไม้ทัณฑ์ฆาต /májthanthákháad/ cancellation sign

การันต์ /kaaran/ cancellation sign

A consonant that is so cancelled is called by its name followed by the term /kaaran/, e.g.

กั /taa kaaran/ in the word การันต์.

#### Examples of Cancelled Final Consonants

ทุกข์ /thúg/ sorrow, misery

สตางค์ /sàtaan, sa-/ stang, 1-100th tical

รถยนต์ /ródjon/ automobile

ศัพท์ /sáb/ vocabulary, words

กุมภาพันธ์ /kumphaaphan/ February

พิมพ์ /phim/ to print

บริบูรณ์ /bòoribuun, bò-/ to be complete

สัตว์ /sàd/ animal, beast

สัตย์ /sàd/ honesty

ทรัพย์ /sáb/ wealth, money

แพทย์ /phêed/ physician, doctor (elegant)

วันอาทิตย์ /wan'aathid/ Sunday

วันศุกร์ /wansùg/ Friday

วันเสาร์ /wansăw/ Saturday

สัปดาห์ /sàbpàdaa, -pa-/ week (elegant)

วงศ์ /won/ race, family, stock

ปอนด์ /pòon/ pound (weight, money) (< Eng.)

Sometimes two final consonants are silenced even though only the last is marked as such by the use of the cancellation sign, e.g.

วันจันทร์ /wancan/ Monday

อาณาจักร /râad/ realm

ศาสตร์ /sâad/ branch or field of knowledge,  
as in the example below.

ภูมิศาสตร์ /phuumisâad/ geography

If the cancellation sign is placed over a consonant with superscript or subscript vowel, both are rendered silent. Combinations often so treated are -จ็ and -ญ, e.g.

สิทธิ /sid/ rights, privileges

Also สิทธิ /sidthi?/

บริสุทธิ์ /bɔ̄ɔ̄risùd, bɔ̄-/ to be pure

วัดโพธิ์ /wâd phoo/ Wat Pho (famous temple)

พันธุ์ /phan/ kind, breed, species

Sometimes a preceding consonant with superscript vowel is also rendered silent, e.g.

กษัตริย์ /kâsâd, ka-/ king

## 6. Unmarked Final Silent Consonants

The cancellation sign is not invariably used to mark a final silent consonant. Sometimes a final consonant is silent even though unmarked. Such unmarked final silent consonant is most often ้ preceded by a stop, e.g.

จักร /câg/ machine (usually in compounds)

สมัคร /sâmâg, sa-/ to volunteer. Also สมัคร.

เพชร /phéd/ diamond. See also p. 72.

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| บุท      | /bùd/ son (elegant)           |
| บัตร     | /bàd/ card (as postcard)      |
| มิตร     | /mìd/ friend                  |
| มหาสมุทร | /máhāsāmùd, ma-...-sa-/ ocean |

An unusual type of example is seen in

|     |                                    |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| กัณ | /khan/ pregnancy, uterus (elegant) |
|-----|------------------------------------|

This is the official spelling, but the spelling กัณ with - added, is the one most often seen.

### 7. Unmarked Nonfinal Silent Consonants

Since the cancellation sign is very rarely used over any but final silent consonants, most types of nonfinal silent consonants are unmarked in any way. The silent consonant is often, but not always, ʔ.

- (๑) สามารถ /sāmāad/ to be able, capable  
 ปรารถนา /prāadthānāa, -tha-/ to desire, wish  
 เกียรติยศ /kladtijód/ honor  
 ศีรษะ /sīsāʔ/ head (eleg.). Also ศีรษะ.
- (๒) พราหมณ์ /phraam/ Brahman
- (๓) พ่อฆาต /phédchákhāad, -cha-/ executioner

### E x c e p t i o n s

Even though it is an exceptional usage the cancellation sign is sometimes found with nonfinal consonants, e.g. in the alternate spelling of the elegant term for "head" above. In particular it is so used in recent loanwords from English. But some such words are spelled now with and now without the cancellation sign, e.g.

- กอล์ฟ, กอล์ฟ /kʰɔb ~ kʰɔf/ golf (< Eng.)  
 ฟอร์ม /fɔɔm/ form (e.g. a printed form);  
 uniform (for a servant) (< Eng.)

### 8. Final Consonants with Silent Vowels

Sometimes a final subscript <sub>~</sub> or superscript <sup>~</sup> is silent even though there is no special symbol which can be used to indicate this. The combinations most often found are -ก and -กึ, but -กึ, -กึ and -กึ are also found, e.g.

- ก เหตุ /hèed/ reason, cause  
 ธาตุ /thâad/ element  
 -กึ ชา กึ /châad/ nationality, race  
 ญาติ /jâad/ relative, kin  
 เกียรติ /kiad/ honor  
 อนุมัติ /ʔânúmad, ʔa-/ permission  
 ประวัติ /prâwad/ description, history. See p. 78.  
 สมมุติ /sǝmmúdt/ to suppose  
 -กึ จักรพรร กึ /càgkráphâd, -kra-/ emperor  
 -กึ โท กึ /kðod/ ten million  
 -กึ อุณหภูมิ /ʔunnâhâphuum, -naha-/ temperature

Sometimes the vowel remains silent when the word is compounded with another word, e.g.

- เหตุการณ์ /hèedkaan/ events, circumstances  
 ภูมิรู้ /phuumrú/ knowledge, education (in a person)

But at other times the vowel is pronounced, e.g.

- ภูมิศาสตร์ /phuumisâad/ geography  
 เกียรติยศ /kiadtijót/ honor  
 ประวัติศาสตร์ /prâwâdtisâad, pra-/ history (subject)

## CHAPTER VI

### OTHER IRREGULARITIES

#### 1. Special Consonant + Vowel Symbols

There are two sets of special consonant + vowel symbols which are shown below. In theory these symbols are treated as vowels and both short and long varieties occur. In practice they are treated as consonant + vowel symbols and the consonantal component behaves like a LOW consonant.

| Short<br>Symbol | Name  | Long<br>Symbol | Name  |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| ŋ               | /rʃʔ/ | ŋŋ             | /ryy/ |
| ŋ               | /lʃʔ/ | ŋŋ             | /lyy/ |

The most common of these symbols is ŋ /rʃʔ/ and it may be pronounced /ry-/ , /ri-/ or /res-/ depending upon the individual word in which it is used. It occurs as a syllable initial or as the second component of any MIDDLE or LOW consonant cluster in which ʃ occurs as the second component (see p. 46). It also occurs clustered with ŋ, a combination in which ʃ does not occur.

#### Examples of ŋ as Syllable Initial

|     |         |                    |
|-----|---------|--------------------|
| ŋŋ  | /rʃduu/ | season             |
| ŋŋʃ | /riid/  | supernatural power |
| ŋŋʃ | /rʃʃeg/ | auspicious time    |

### Examples of ๓ in Clusters

|             |                                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| อังกฤษ      | /ʔaŋkrid/ England; English                              |
| ประพฤติ     | /práphrýd, pra-/ to behave, act                         |
| วันพฤหัสบดี | /wan phrýhàdsàbɔ̀dii, -ssabɔ̀-/ Thursday<br>(see p. 61) |
| พฤษภาคม     | /phrýdsàphaakhom -ssa-/ May                             |
| พฤศจิกายน   | /phrýdsàcikaajon, -ssa-/ November                       |
| ทฤษฎี       | /thrýdsàdii, -ssa-/ theory                              |

The long symbol ๓๓ is very rarely used. It occurs in the example cited below, but the same word is also spelled with the short symbol at times.

ฤๅษี, ฤๅษี /ryysii/ or /rýsii/ hermit, anchorite

The symbols ๓ and ๓๓ are virtually never used. There are therefore no useful, or even moderately useful, examples which can be cited. The symbols are often omitted entirely from Thai dictionaries.

Dictionary Order. Since these symbols are not true consonants but consonant + vowel symbols, they do not comprise a part of the inventory of consonants (pp. 6-9). For the purpose of order of arrangement in dictionaries, ๓ and ๓๓ succeed ɨ, while ๓ and ๓๓ are placed after ๓.

## 2. The Twenty Words Spelled with ๓-

The complete list of the twenty words which must be spelled with the symbol ๓- is given on the following page. The arrangement follows the Thai alphabetical order. Most of these words are very common and none of them are uncommon, so the proper spelling of all of them must be memorized.

TWENTY WORDS SPELLED WITH 'ไ-

|             |                                                   |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ใกล้        | /klāj/ to be close, near                          |
| ใคร         | /khraɪ/ who? someone, anyone                      |
| ใคร่        | /khrāj/ desire to, wish to                        |
| ใจ          | /caj/ heart, mind, spirit (fig. sense)            |
| ใช่         | /chāj/ to be ...; that's so!                      |
| ใช้         | /chāj ~ cháaj/ to use ...; to be used             |
| ไหน         | /daj/ which, any (preceded by clf.)               |
| ใต้         | /tāj/ to be under, southern                       |
| ใน          | /naj/ in (space); in, at, on (time)               |
| ใบ          | /baj/ leaf (in cpds. exc. when a clf.)            |
| ใบ้         | /bāj/ dumb, mute                                  |
| ใฝ่, ใฝ่ใฝ่ | /fāj/, as in /fāgfāj/ to be engrossed in          |
| ใย          | /jaj/ fiber; web (of spider)                      |
| สะใภ้       | /sāphāj, sa-/ female rel. by marriage             |
| ใส          | /sāj/ to be clear, transparent                    |
| ใส่         | /sāj/ to put in, insert                           |
| ให้         | /hāj/ to give ...; for ...                        |
| ใหญ่        | /jāj/ to be big, large                            |
| ใหม่        | /māj/ to be new; anew                             |
| โหลงใหล     | /lāj/, only in /lōnlāj/ to be infatuated with ... |

Some of these have homonyms spelled with 'ไ- as in the examples shown below:

|        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| ใจ     | /caj/ skein (of thread, yarn) |
| ไ้, ใ้ | /daj/, as in /bandaj/ stairs  |
| ไ้     | /tāj/ torch                   |

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| ໄນ        | /naj/ spinning wheel                 |
| ໄຍ        | /jaj/ why, for what                  |
| ໄສ        | /sāj/ to push, shove (forward, away) |
| ໄ້, ຮ້າໄ້ | /hāj/, as in /rājnhāj/ to cry, weep  |
| ໄນ        | /lāj/ to flow                        |

### 3. More About Unwritten /-a-/

#### A. Unwritten -ə

In previous chapters examples have been given of intruded /-a-/ in initial consonant groupings (see pp. 49-51) and after certain medial consonants with double function (see pp. 60-61). Single consonants or word final consonants may also be pronounced with an unwritten /-a?/, but most such words are highly literary. One of the most commonly seen words of this type is the following:

ຸ            /ná?/ at, in (of time or place)

Other examples are very much rarer:

ສິລປ        /sīnlápá?/ arts, crafts

ກິສ        /tílá?/ sesame (literary word; the  
common word is ງາ /gaa/)

#### B. Unwritten -i/

Another rare type of unwritten /-a-/ is found in the case of a few words which are pronounced as if they were spelled with -i/. Among words of this type which have a fairly high frequency the first two examples below are perhaps the most important.

ສາດຣີ        /sādrii/ woman (elegant)

ກາງກຳກຸມ    /kārágkàdaakhom, ka-.-ka-/ July

ກຳກຸມ        /?āgkātanjuu, -ka-/ to be ungrateful

The usual reading for the unwritten vowel in a closed syllable is /-o-/, as shown on pp. 18-20. The reading /-a-/ shown in the three examples on the preceding page is very rare. The pressure for the /-o-/ reading is such that some words which were until recently read with /-a-/ are now usually read with /-o-/, e.g.

ખામનાખમ /khamnáakhom, -na-/ communication

મોગકારાખમ /mógkàraakhom, -ka-/ January

The two words were formerly (or rarely still are) pronounced /khamnáakhom, -na-/ and /mógkàraakhom, -ka-/, respectively.

#### 4. The Use of the Vowel-Shortening Symbol

The vowel-shortening symbol  $\overset{a}{-}$ , known as  $\text{લૂંલૂં}$  (see p. 18), has certain important restrictions as to its use. It is used in combination with the vowels  $\text{ł-}$ ,  $\text{ł-}$ , and  $\text{-ò}$  (and no others), and it is used with these only if two additional conditions are met, viz. (1) there must be a syllable-final consonant, and (2) there must be no tonal marker required in the writing of the syllable. The vowel-shortening symbol is most commonly used with  $\text{ł-}$ , e.g.

#### VOWEL-SHORTENING SYMBOL WITH $\text{ł-}$

લેખ /kèb/ to pick, gather, collect ...

લેજ /cèd/ seven

લેજ /chéd/ to wipe ...

લેજ /rew/ to be fast, quick, rapid

લેજ /lég/ to be small, little

લેખ /hèn/ to see ...

લેખ /lèg/ iron (metal)

## E x c e p t i o n s

One important word, /pen/ (1st example below) is spelled with <sup>4</sup> in dictionaries, official writings, textbooks, etc., but is normally spelled without <sup>4</sup> in newspapers. This is occasioned in large part by the high frequency of its occurrence. The remaining words shown below are regularly spelled without <sup>4</sup> under all circumstances.

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| เพ็น, เปน | /pen/ to be ...                   |
| เพชร      | /phéd/ diamond. (See also p. 64.) |
| เมตร      | /méd/ meter (< French)            |
| เมตริก    | /médtríg/ metric (< French)       |

The use of <sup>4</sup> with the vowels  $\text{u-}$  and  $\text{-d}$  is much rarer. Although there are some important exceptions, its use with these two vowels is largely confined to imitative words, restricted modifiers, and particles.

VOWEL-SHORTENING SYMBOL WITH  $\text{u-}$  AND  $\text{-d}$ 

|            |                                                                                                                     |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| แข็ง       | /khěŋ/ to be hard, firm, strong                                                                                     |
| เขยิบ      | /khâjêg, kha-/ bit by bit (of climbing)                                                                             |
| เร็ด       | /chéd/ bright (red) (restricted mod.)                                                                               |
| คึกคัก     | /dêgdêc/ chrysalis. Also คึกคัก <sup>4</sup> /dâgdêc/.                                                              |
| ก็         | /kî?, kî-/ then, consequently, also<br>Always spelled without vowel, as shown.<br>A very common and important word. |
| หรือ       | /rôg/ (emphatic particle). Also หรือ <sup>4</sup><br>but with same pronunciation.                                   |
| หริ่มหริ่ม | /rîmrîm/ sparsely                                                                                                   |
| หย็อกหย่อ  | /jôgjôj/ disheveled, mussed (as hair)                                                                               |

## 5. The Tonal Markers and Vowel Length

Since the vowel-shortening symbol <sup>4</sup> cannot be employed with the vowels ɪ-, u- and -o when a tonal marker is also required in the writing of the syllable (p. 69), there is no way within the conventional writing system to distinguish short /-e-/ , /-ɛ-/ and /-ɔ-/ from long /-ee-/ , /-ee-/ and /-oo-/ if tonal markers are used. All that can be done is to make a few very general statements which may be helpful to the foreign student of Thai. These are as follows:

1. The vowel ɪ- plus any one of the four tonal markers is normally read short, e.g.

### THE VOWEL ɪ- WITH TONAL MARKERS

|          |                                         |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /kən/ to be expert (in), good (at)      |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /bən/ to expand                         |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /chən/ such as                          |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /lən/ to play                           |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /rən/ cardamom                          |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /wən/ to omit, except                   |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /mən/ to compress (e.g. the lips)       |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /cən/ to go bankrupt (< Chin.)          |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻ     | /pən/ strictly, sharp (as "noon sharp") |
| ᨧᩁᩃᨻᨧᩁᩃᨻ | /krōŋkrēn/ to be sparse; sparsely, few  |

An exception. Note the difference between the last two examples. The long /-ee-/ can be predicted, however, because of the unambiguous long /-oo-/ in the first of the two ablaut reduplicated syllables.

2A. The vowels ㅏ and ㅑ are usually, but not invariably, short under the low tone in live syllables, e.g.

THE VOWELS ㅏ AND ㅑ WITH MARKED LOW TONE

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ㅏ | /cəm/ to be clear                     |
| ㅑ | /bɛŋ/ to divide (up)                  |
| ㅏ | /phɛn/ Clf. for sheets (as of paper)  |
| ㅑ | /mɛm/ Occidental woman (< Eng.)       |
| ㅏ | /hɛŋ/ place; Clf. for places          |
| ㅑ | /sɔŋ/ to shine                        |
| ㅏ | /mɔm/ (title for descendants of roy.) |
| ㅑ | /bɔj/ to be often                     |
| ㅏ | /nɔj/ a little bit. Also /nɔɔj/.      |
| ㅑ | /kɔn/ before                          |

2B. The vowels ㅏ and ㅑ are either short or long (depending upon the word) under the falling tone in live syllables, e.g.

THE VOWELS ㅏ AND ㅑ WITH MARKED FALLING TONE

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ㅏ | /khɛŋ/ shin                           |
| ㅑ | /klɛŋ/ to make a show of, pretense of |
| ㅏ | /lɛn/ to run (of a boat)              |
| ㅑ | /pɛn/ (name for a woman)              |
| ㅏ | /pɛŋ/ powder (face powder), flour     |
| ㅑ | /hɛw/ water chestnut                  |
| ㅏ | /kɛw/ crystal. Sometimes /kɛw/.       |
| ㅑ | /tɔŋ/ to have to, must                |
| ㅏ | /hɔŋ/ room                            |

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /hŋj/ to hang (down) |
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /ʔŋɔj/ sugar cane    |

2C. The vowels ɹ- and -ᵛ are always long under the high tone in live syllables, e.g.

THE VOWELS ɹ- AND -ᵛ WITH MARKED HIGH TONE

|          |                                     |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /lɛɛŋ/ to be dry (as of the season) |
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /lɛɛw/ already                      |
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /rŋɔj/ hundred                      |
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /rŋɔn/ to be hot                    |
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /chŋɔn/ spoon                       |

2D. The vowels ɹ- and -ᵛ are usually short under the rising tone in those syllables where it is marked by the use of the 4th tonal marker, but such usage is in any case rare. (High consonants in live syllables indicate a rising tone when no tonal marker is used, and these consonants will take ˥ if the vowel is to be read short; see examples on p. 72). Examples in which the 4th tonal marker is used are:

THE VOWELS ɹ- AND -ᵛ WITH MARKED RISING TONE

|          |                                         |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /cɛw/ crystal (clear) (restricted mod.) |
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /krápŋ, kra-/ (tin-)can                 |
| ᵛ<br>ᵛᵛᵛ | /krɔŋkrɔj/ very humble, poor            |

3. In dead syllables marked tones are always rare and unusual no matter what the vowel may be. When the vowel is ɹ-, ɹ- or -ᵛ the reading is most often short in dead syllables, but in a few instances the reading is long. Most words coming in this category are recent loanwords from Chinese or English.

|          |                                         |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| น้ำ      | /cég/ Chinese (informal term) (< Chin.) |
| แกว      | /kéb/ cap (< Eng.)                      |
| แกส      | /kéed ~ kées/ gas (< Eng.)              |
| น้ำจ     | /céd/ bright (red) (restricted mod.)    |
| กอก      | /kóg/ (water) faucet (< Eng. "cock")    |
| ชอก, ชอก | /chóg/ chalk (< Eng.)                   |
| ลอกแกว   | /lógłég/ to be inattentive, shifty      |

This word uses the 1st tonal marker specifically to indicate that the vowels are short. If no tonal marker were used the tone would be the same but the vowels would be read long.

## 6. Irregular Readings for Vowel Lengths

There are various types of special cases in which a short vowel is read long or a long vowel is read short. A brief description of the most important of these is provided in this section.

### A. Lengthened Vowels

(1) There is a tendency to lengthen a short vowel under the high tone in live syllables, particularly in the case of those written with the symbols -<sup>˥</sup>, ˥-, and ˥- (i.e. the vowel + sonorant symbols, p. 14). Some of the words coming in this category are read with a long vowel in final position (alone or in compounds), with a short vowel in nonfinal position (in compounds), e.g.

|                |         |                     |
|----------------|---------|---------------------|
| - <sup>˥</sup> | น้ำ     | /náam/ water        |
|                | ห้องน้ำ | /hǒngnáam/ bathroom |
|                | น้ำแข็ง | /náamkhǎng/ ice     |

|     |          |                |                              |
|-----|----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| ๑-๗ | เช้า     | /chǎaw/        | to be early (in the morning) |
|     | เท้า     | /thǎaw/        | foot (elegant)               |
| ๑-  | ไม้      | /mǎaj/         | stick, wood                  |
|     | ต้นไม้   | /tǒnmǎaj/      | tree                         |
|     | ไม้ขีดไฟ | /mǎjkhǐidfaj/  | a match                      |
|     | ไม้ตรี   | /mǎjtrii/      | the 3rd tonal marker         |
| ๑-  | ใช้      | /cháaj ~ cháj/ | to use ...; to be used       |

(2) The vowel + sonorant symbol ๑-๗ is sometimes lengthened under the falling tone, sometimes not. Note the readings given in the following set of words:

|      |        |                                 |
|------|--------|---------------------------------|
| เจ้า | /cǎaw/ | Lord, royal person, prince      |
|      |        | But sometimes also spelled จ้า. |

|         |           |                     |
|---------|-----------|---------------------|
| พมมเจ้า | /mǎmcǎaw/ | royal grandchildren |
|---------|-----------|---------------------|

But may sometimes be read /mǎmcǎw/ if used as a title immediately preceding the given name of the royal personage having the title.

|         |            |                                |
|---------|------------|--------------------------------|
| เจ้า    | /cǎw/      | you (superior sp. to inferior) |
| เจ้า    | /cǎw-/     | master, owner (see ex. below)  |
| เจ้าชอง | /cǎwkhǓwŋ/ | master, owner                  |

(3) One word spelled with ๑-๗ under the low tone is always read with a long vowel, viz.

|       |         |                                         |
|-------|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| เปล่า | /plǎaw/ | to be empty, blank, plain; in vain; no! |
|-------|---------|-----------------------------------------|

### B. Shortened Vowels

(1) The symbol ๑-๒/ is normally read long. In at least two instances, however, it is read short, viz.

|      |       |                 |
|------|-------|-----------------|
| เงิน | /nɛn/ | silver; money   |
| เฉด  | /cɛp/ | to be inundated |

(2) At least two words spelled with -ŋ under the falling tone are normally read short, viz.

ท่าน /thân/ you; he, she, they (sp. of elders or superiors)

อ๋าน /ʔáj/ Derogatory or insulting title used before first names of men

(3) Several words shorten the vowel of a middle-toned syllable -ŋ- when it is in penultimate position. But the words are also sometimes read with a half-long vowel. This is shown by placing the second of the two a's in parentheses in the phonetic transcription, e.g.

วิทยาลัย /widthája(a)laj, -tha-/ college

วิทยาศาสตร์ /widthája(a)sàad, -tha-/ science

พยายาม /phája(a)jaam, pha-/ to try, attempt

โรงพยาบาล /roonphája(a)baan, -pha-/ hospital

## 7. Irregular Readings for Tones

There are a few disyllabic words which have an irregular reading for the tone of their second syllable. All such syllables are "dead" syllables (see p. 26) beginning in a sonorant, and their tones are read as if the sonorant were governed by a preceding MIDDLE or HIGH consonant. In these cases it is the preceding syllable which begins in a MIDDLE or HIGH consonant and this, in effect, governs the tone of its own syllable and the syllable following. But this type of situation is not a regular one.

The pronunciation and spelling of the following words must therefore be memorized, especially since the pronunciation of most of them is incorrectly marked in McFarland's Thai-English Dictionary, a

source which is in most other respects a useful one for the relatively advanced student of THAI.

#### IRREGULAR TONES: LOW INSTEAD OF FALLING

|          |                  |                       |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------|
| ประโยชน์ | /prājōd, pra- /  | usefulness, advantage |
| ประโยค   | /prājōg, pra- /  | sentence (grammar)    |
| ประมาท   | /prāmāad, pra- / | to be negligent       |
| ตำรวจ    | /tamrōad/        | the police            |
| สำรวจ    | /sāmōad/         | to explore, survey    |

#### IRREGULAR TONES: LOW INSTEAD OF HIGH

|               |                      |                                      |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ประวัติ       | /prāwād, pra-/       | description, history                 |
| ประวัติศาสตร์ | /prāwādtisāad, pra-/ | history (subject)                    |
| การ           | /damrīʔ/             | to consider (royal, elegant)         |
| การ           | /damrād/             | to speak; speech (royal)             |
| สำเร็จ        | /sāmōad/             | to be finished, complete, successful |

In addition to the examples cited above many recent loanwords from English have irregular pronunciation as to tones.

### 8. Ambiguities

Certain features of the Thai writing system give rise to ambiguities, i.e. the same sequence of symbols may have more than one pronunciation or more than one possible pronunciation. Some of the more common ambiguities are discussed below.

(1) When the complex vowel symbol เ-็ has two consonants between its two parts, it cannot be distinguished from a sequence ๑ + /-ee/ followed by ๑ + /-aa/. Homographs are rare, but the proper reading for all such combinations must be learned, e.g.

- ၂၈၈၇        /sálaw, sa-/ a kind of tree  
           (or) /səelaa/ stone, mountain  
 ၂၈၈၇        /phlaw/ axle  
           (or) /pheelaa/ time (literary)

(2) When the preposed vowel symbols i-, u- and ɿ- are followed by W plus a sonorant, it is impossible to tell whether the W is W ʷ or the initial pronounced consonant W followed by a final consonant. That is, this is true if no tonal marker is required, e.g.

- ၂၈၈၈        /nɛc/ duckweed  
           (or) /hɛcn/ to be solicitous about  
 ၂၈၈၉        /mɛc/ Ohi (interjection)  
 ၂၈၉၀        /hɛm/ gold (literary)

But if a tonal marker is required it will be placed over the sonorant if the W is W ʷ (first example below), and over W if the sonorant is the syllable final (second example below).

- ၂၈၉၁        /n̄ɛc/ to be small, little, young  
 ၂၈၉၂        /h̄ɛŋ/ place, location

(3) If the symbol ʷ occurs between two consonants it is usually to be read as /-ua-/. But sometimes it is to be read as syllable initial /w-/, though this latter reading is extremely rare. Moreover, if the first of the two consonants is W, the W may be either the initial pronounced consonant or W ʷ. Examples:

- ၂၈၉၃        /s̄uan/ garden  
 ၂၈၉၄        /s̄awŋ, sa-/ (first name for a man)

|       |                                           |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|
| กวาง  | /khuan/ ought to, should                  |
| (or)  | /kháwǎn, kha-/ (as in the ex. below)      |
| รังกว | /rangkháwǎn, -kha-/ (a surname)           |
| บวม   | /buam/ to swell, be swollen               |
| บัว   | /bǎwǎn, bǎ-/ (a surname)                  |
| หวง   | /hǔan/ to keep for oneself, be jealous of |
| (or)  | /wǎn/ (short form of หวัง, man's name)    |

(4) If the symbol ๐ occurs between two consonants it is usually to be read /-ǎǎ-/. But in a few rare instances it must be read as syllable initial /ǎ-/.

|         |                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ผอม     | /phǎm/ to be thin, lean, skinny                                                             |
| (or)    | /phǎ <sup>?</sup> om, pha-/ (as in the ex. below)                                           |
| ผิ่กผอม | /phǎ <sup>?</sup> ǎy <sup>?</sup> dphǎ <sup>?</sup> om, pha-...-pha-/ reluctant<br>to speak |
| ผอบ     | /phǎ <sup>?</sup> ǎb, pha-/ small container with a<br>triangular lid                        |

## 9. Recent Changes in Spelling

A few minor changes in spelling were introduced in the 1950 ed. of the official Thai Dictionary put out under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. Current newspapers and recently issued books use the new spelling. But the McFarland Thai-English Dictionary, commonly used by foreign students of Thai, was published prior to the time these changes were introduced and a recent reissue of this work (1954) has no corrections in the text because it was done by the photographic process. Therefore a student who tries to read a current Thai newspaper with the aid of the McFarland dictionary will have difficulty in locating some of the words unless he takes into account the points discussed below.

(1) The vowel -z has been dropped in the spelling of many common words, e.g.

| New Way | Old Way | Transcription                       |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| ฉบับ    | ฉฉบับ   | /chàbàb, cha-/ issue, copy          |
| เฉพาะ   | ฉเฉพาะ  | /chàphá?, cha-/ to be particular to |
| ชนะ     | ฉชนะ    | /cháná?, cha-/ to win               |
| ชนิด    | ฉชนิด   | /chánid, cha-/ kind, sort, variety  |
| พม่า    | ฉพม่า   | /phámáa, pha-/ Burma; Burmese       |

But many other words still retain the vowel -z, e.g.

|      |                |          |
|------|----------------|----------|
| มะลิ | /má lí?, ma-/  | jasmine  |
| ระยะ | /ráj á?, ra-/  | distance |
| ทะเล | /thálee, tha-/ | sea      |

(2) Some simplification in the writing of final consonant clusters has been introduced in some words, e.g.

| New Way | Old Way | Transcription                       |
|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| เขต     | ฉเขต    | /khèed/ limit, boundary             |
| กิจ     | ฉกิจ    | /kid/ activity                      |
| งู      | ฉงู     | /wú d/ to grow, increase (literary) |

(3) A very few words formerly spelled with ๓- for /-aj/ are now spelled ๓. An important example is:

| New Way | Old Way | Transcription                    |
|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| สาม     | ๓       | /traj/ three (literary, special) |

But the old spelling is still used in some contexts. The new spelling is used especially in Buddhist contexts, as in the example below.

/rádtánátraj, -tana-/ the Three Gems (of Buddhism)

# CHAPTER VII

## NUMERALS AND SPECIAL SIGNS

### 1. Numerals

The so-called Arabic numerals used in Europe and in America are ultimately derived from the ancient Hindu numerals. The Thai numerals have the same origin, but the Thai obtained them as a part of their total writing system complex which is derived from the Devanagari (p. 1). The actual numerals with their names are listed below.

#### THAI NUMERALS

|   |   |       |              |
|---|---|-------|--------------|
| ๑ | 1 | หนึ่ง | /nɯŋ/ one    |
| ๒ | 2 | สอง   | /sɔ̌ŋ/ two   |
| ๓ | 3 | สาม   | /sǎam/ three |
| ๔ | 4 | สี่   | /si/ four    |
| ๕ | 5 | ห้า   | /hǎa/ five   |
| ๖ | 6 | หก    | /hɔ̌g/ six   |
| ๗ | 7 | เจ็ด  | /cɛd/ seven  |
| ๘ | 8 | แปด   | /pɛd/ eight  |
| ๙ | 9 | เก้า  | /kǎw/ nine   |
| ๐ | 0 | ศูนย์ | /stun/ zero  |

The basic rule for making these symbols is the same as that for making the consonants. In other words, one starts out by first making the little circle in ๑, ๒, ๓, etc. The pen then moves to the right or the left (or right, then left) as demanded by the nature of the symbol. The symbol for "9" is made in two strokes, viz. ๑ followed by ๘ giving ๙. The remaining symbols are made without lifting the pen from beginning to end. Note that the Thai zero is a small circle, not a small oval as is our Arabic zero.

The Thai numeral system is a decimal one and the higher numbers are formed by the use of the zero and the digits exactly as in our own system, viz.

|      |      |                        |                               |
|------|------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ๑๐   | 10   | สิบ                    | /sib/                         |
| ๑๑   | 11   | สิบเอ็ด                | /sib'èd/                      |
| ๑๕   | 15   | สิบห้า                 | /sibhâa/                      |
| ๒๐   | 20   | ยี่สิบ                 | /jiisib/                      |
| ๓๐   | 30   | สามสิบ                 | /sâamsib/                     |
| ๔๐   | 40   | สี่สิบ                 | /siisib/                      |
| ๑๐๐  | 100  | หนึ่งร้อย              | /nyñrǝj/                      |
| ๑๐๑  | 101  | ร้อยเอ็ด               | /rǝj'èd/                      |
| ๓๔๕  | 345  | สามร้อยสี่สิบห้า       | /sâamrǝj siisibhâa/           |
| ๑๐๐๐ | 1000 | หนึ่งพัน               | /nyñphan/                     |
| ๓๐๗๘ | 3078 | สามพันเจ็ดสิบแปด       | /sâamphan cèdsib-<br>pèd/     |
| ๔๕๙๖ | 4596 | สี่พันห้าร้อยเก้าสิบหก | /siiphan hâarǝj<br>kâwsibhòg/ |

|             |             |                                                                                                                |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ๑๐,๐๐๐      | 10,000      | หนึ่งพัน /นึ่งหมื่น/<br>สิบพันห้าพันสองร้อย                                                                    |
| ๔๕,๒๐๐      | 45,200      | /sɪmɯyn h̄aaphan s̄ɔɔnr̄ɔɔj/<br>หนึ่งแสน /นึ่งร̄ส̄น/<br>หนึ่งแสนเก้าหมื่นแปดพัน                                |
| ๑๐๐,๐๐๐     | 100,000     | หนึ่งแสน /นึ่งร̄ส̄น/<br>หนึ่งแสนเก้าหมื่นแปดพัน                                                                |
| ๑๔๘,๐๐๐     | 198,000     | /นึ่งร̄ส̄น k̄awm̄yyn p̄ɛdphan/<br>หนึ่งล้าน /นึ่งล้̄าน/<br>สิบล้าน (or) หนึ่งโหล                               |
| ๑,๐๐๐,๐๐๐   | 1,000,000   | หนึ่งล้าน /นึ่งล้̄าน/<br>สิบล้าน (or) หนึ่งโหล                                                                 |
| ๑๐,๐๐๐,๐๐๐  | 10,000,000  | /sɪbl̄aan/ (or) /นึ่งก̄ดอด/<br>But /k̄dod/ is not used in<br>reading higher numbers; see<br>the example below. |
| ๑๓๐,๐๐๐,๐๐๐ | 130,000,000 | หนึ่งร้อยสามสิบล้าน<br>/นึ่งร̄ɔɔj s̄aamsɪbl̄aan/                                                               |

Our own Arabic numerals are also sometimes used in Thai books at the present time (see pp. 95 and 102), even though all the other writing may be in the conventional Thai orthography. Thai schoolchildren often learn their arithmetic by the use of Arabic numerals. They also, of course, learn to use their own numerals as well.

## 2. Typographical Signs

Both traditional typographical signs and many additional signs recently borrowed from the West are to be found in modern Thai books and newspapers. Traditional signs still in common use are listed on the following page with their names and examples.

TYPOGRAPHICAL SIGNS

- ๗ ไม้มอก /má,jámóg, -ja-/ the repeat sign, e.g.  
 ๗ ยื่น ๗ /'yyn'yyn/ other, others  
 ๗ ช้า ๗ /cháacháa/ slowly

~~~~~

- ๗ ไวยากรณ์ย่อ /pajjaannóy/ used to indicate that a familiar, well-understood word or group of words has been omitted in writing. In reading, the omitted word or words must be supplied, e.g.

กรุงเทพฯ Stands for กรุงเทพมหานคร /krunthæb máháanákhoon, ma-..-na-/ (the Thai name for Bangkok). This name is always written with this symbol.

นายกรัฐมนตรี Stands for นายกรัฐมนตรี /naajóg rád-thámontrií, -tha-/ the premier

~~~~~

- ๗ ไวยากรณ์ใหญ่ /pajjaanjáy/ used like Eng. "etc." and read as /lá' / in a text. See example on p. 91.

~~~~~

Additional typographical signs recently borrowed from the West are the following:

มหัพภาค /máhàbphâag, ma-/ the period. Used in writing abbreviations (pp. 93-100), e.g.

น. Abbrev. for นาฬิกา /naalíkaa/ "o'clock" (for time on the 24-hour basis).

ร.ร. Abbrev. for โรงเรียน /roonriian/ "school."

~~~~~

๗ /cùd/ "dot, point." I.e., the dot used in writing decimals, e.g.

๔.๓๐ น. 8:30 A.M.

๒.๕๐ 2.50. Read /sǐwɔ̄n cùd hâasib/.

~~~~~

๗๐๐๐๐ /cùd lǔugnám/ the comma. Used in writing larger numbers, e.g.

๑๐,๐๐๐ 10,000

~~~~~

- ๗ /khiid/ the dash. Sometimes not read, e.g.

เด็ก ๔ - ๕ คน /dèg sǐi hâakhon/ "four (or) five children"

But sometimes read as:

ถึง /thǎy/ "to, up to, until," e.g.

๘.๔๕ - ๙.๐๐ น. 8:45 to 9:00 A.M.

~~~~~

* เครื่องหมายร้อยละ /khrǎnmǎaj rǎajlá?/ "per cent sign"

But read as:

เปอร์เซ็นต์ /pǎesen/ "per cent" (< Eng.), e.g.

๑๐% /sǐb pǎesen/ 10%

~~~~~

? เครื่องหมายคำถาม /khrǎnmǎaj khamthām/ "question mark," e.g.

เรียนไปทำไม /rian paj thammaj/ "Why study?"

~~~~~

! ฮัใจรึบ

/ʔadsáceerii, -sa-/ the exclamation point. Also called:

เครื่องหมายตกใจ

/khrɿʔanmǎaj tògcaj/ "the sign of being frightened"

Used with interjections and with exclamatory sentences, e.g.

อย่าตกใจ!

/jǎa tògcaj/ "Don't be scared!"

~~~~~

\* \* เครื่องหมายคำพูด

/khrɿʔanmǎaj khamphǔud/ quotation marks ("spoken word symbols"). Additional terms for "open quotes" and "close quotes" are also used and are formed by adding the terms /pǎed/ "to open" and /pid/ "to close," viz.

เครื่องหมายคำพูดเปิด open quotes

เครื่องหมายคำพูดปิด close quotes

Quotation marks are used to enclose direct quotations, e.g.

"ไม่ใช่ครับ"

/mǎjchǎj khráb/ "No." (man speaking)

They are also used with proper names to indicate that the name is a pen name, e.g.

โดย "แสงทอง"

/dooj sǎenthong/ By "Saengthong."

~~~~~

() วงเล็บ

/wonlǎb/ parentheses

Used to enclose parenthetical matter, usually of an explanatory nature, e.g.

กัมพูชา (เขมร)

/kamphuuchaa (khâmseen)/ Cambodia (Khmer)

~~~~~

### 3. Spaces and Other Punctuation

Thai words are not written with spaces between them as is done in writing English and other European languages. All words within a phrase or clause (or within a sentence containing a single clause) are written together without any spacing, as is customary in writing Sanskrit and other languages using the Devanagari or one of its derivatives. Example:

ประเทศไทยตั้งอยู่ทางทิศตะวันออกเฉียงใต้ของทวีปเอเชีย

/prathēedthaj tāj jūu thaaj thīdtawan'āng-  
chīantāj khāj thawlib'eesia./

Thailand is situated in the southeast of the continent of Asia. THAI READER, p. 185.

Spaces, on the other hand, set off the end of a phrase, clause, or sentence and are therefore used in places where we normally use the comma and the period, e.g.

ไม่มีหิมะในประเทศไทย แต่มีลูกเห็บบ้างบางแห่ง ต้นไม้  
เขียวและดอกไม้บานตลอดปี

/mājmii himá' naj prathēedthaj, tēc mi  
lūughèb bāaj baanhēj. tōnmāaj khīaw lé'  
dāngmāaj baan talāād pii./

There is no snow in Thailand, but there is some hail in some places. The trees are green and the flowers bloom throughout the year. THAI READER, p. 150.

Thai printed matter (as opposed to typewritten matter) is arranged so that the righthand margin is

even, just as is done in our own printed books. But in Thai this can mean that the end of a sentence is unmarked in any way. If the end of the sentence is flush with the righthand margin, there will be no special mark to set it off as the end of a sentence. Contrariwise, in order to adjust the righthand margin the printer will sometimes insert an extra space or two which is not meant to be interpreted as the end of a phrase or clause. In the beginning these things will be a bit confusing to the student, but after he has had a little practice in reading he will become accustomed to them.

Spaces are also used to set off words in a series, and this furnishes still another instance in which a space corresponds to our comma, e.g.

สินค้าสำคัญของประเทศไทยมี ข้าว ไม้สัก ยาง พืช  
 ไร่ ปลา และเนื้อต่าง ๆ

/sǐnkháa sǎmkhan khǐwǎn prathēedthaj mii,  
 khǎaw, nájsàg, jaan, mǔu, wua, plaa lé? rēe  
 tǎantǎan./

The important products of Thailand are rice, teak, rubber, hogs, cattle, fish, and various ores. THAI READER, p. 158.

Spaces also have other conventional uses in written Thai, viz. (1) between the first and last names of people (but not between a title like "Mr." and the first name), e.g.

พ่อของเขาคือ นายชวน รักไทย

/phǔw khǐwǎnkhǎw chǔy naajkhǎab rágthaj./

His father's name is Mr. Khap Rakthai. THAI READER, p. 76.

(2) before and after numerals, e.g.

พ่อค้าช้างผู้หนึ่งได้วัดช้างถึง ๒๐๐๐ ตัว มีตัวเดียวที่สูง  
ถึง ๙ ฟุต ๔ นิ้ว

/phǒk kháacháan phǔunǔn dǎjwád cháan thǔn  
sǎnphan tua, mi tuadiaw tháwnán thii sǔn  
thǔn káw fú d sǎn íw./

An elephant merchant measured up to 2000 ele-  
phants, (and) there was only one which reached  
the height of 9 feet, 4 inches. "SCIENCE,"  
vol. 5, pp. 323-324.

(3) before and after the repeat sign, e.g.

ทางเหนือของประเทศไทยมีภูเขาสูง ๆ มาก

/thaan nǎa khǎn prathēedthaj mi phuukhǎw  
sǔn sǔn máag./

In the north of Thailand there are many quite  
high mountains. THAI READER, p. 163.

(4) before and after ๗๓๗. e.g.

ประเทศไทยส่ง ข้าว สังกะสี ไปขายต่างประเทศ

/prathēedthaj sǎn khǎaw, diibǔng láʔ, pajkhǎaj  
tǎanprathēed./

Thailand exports rice, tin, etc.

(5) before and after parentheses, e.g.

คนนำทางกะวามันสูงราว ๔ - ๕ ศอก (ราว ๑๒ - ๑๔ ฟุต)

/khonnamthaan ká? waa man sūn raaw p̄ed káw-  
sǎng (raaw sibsǎng thǎn sibsai fǎd)./

The guide guessed it was around 8-9 forearm  
lengths (around 12-14 feet) in height.  
"SCIENCE," vol. 5, p. 326.

If, upon reaching the righthand margin, the typ-  
ist or printer finds it necessary to break into the  
middle of a word, a hyphen is often used, just as in  
our own typed or printed matter, e.g.

กรุงเทพฯเป็นจุดรวมของการคมนาคม มีทางรถ-  
ไฟ และทางรถยนต์ จากกรุงเทพฯไปยังเมืองต่าง ๆ  
ทั่วประเทศ

/krunth̄ēb pen cūdrum khǎng kaankhommanaakhom.  
mii thaanrōdfaj lé? thaanrōdjon càag krunth̄ēb  
paj jan myan t̄aant̄aang th̄ua prath̄ēd./

Bangkok is the center of communication. There  
are railways and highways from Bangkok to the  
different towns all over the country. THAI  
READER, p. 161.

The remaining types of punctuation marks are used  
very much as they are in English books. Quotation  
marks set off direct quotations, and the question  
mark and exclamation point designate questions and  
exclamations, respectively (see pp. 87-88). In ad-  
dition, paragraphs are indented as in our own books.

## 4. Abbreviations

Abbreviations of certain common words are sometimes used in modern written Thai. They are always set off by the use of a period. Sometimes the first consonant of the word is used in abbreviation, e.g.

น. นาฬิกา. /naalíkaa/ o'clock (of time on the 24-hour basis)

At other times the first consonant of each of two parts of a word will be used as the abbreviation, and in this event there is usually a period after each of the two consonants, e.g.

น.ร. นักเรียน /nágrian/ student

But if the first consonant of either syllable is ฃ ฃำ this letter will be skipped in favor of the second consonant of the syllable, e.g.

ก.ม. กฎหมาย /kòdmăaj/ law

The reason for this is that ฃ ฃำ must be used in front of all sonorants to convert them to the HIGH series and it is therefore not a sufficiently distinctive letter to be used for purposes of abbreviation.

Certain standard abbreviations transliterated from European languages may have a period following only the last consonant of the abbreviation. But sometimes even these abbreviations will be written with two periods, e.g.

กม. (or) ก.ม. กิโลเมตร /kílooméd/ kilometer (km.)

In rarer instances the first two or three letters of a word, including perhaps a vowel, are used in abbreviation, e.g.

โทร. โทรศัพท์ /thoorásàb/ telephone

Some of the more commonly used abbreviations are listed and explained below. But certain other specialized categories of abbreviations are discussed in later sections (pp. 96-101).

## TITLES

- ມ.ຈ. ພອນມິຈາ /mòmcaŋ, -cāw/ M.O.  
(a title for those in the grandchild generation of royal descent, or treated as such)
- Higher titles are normally not subject to abbreviation.
- ມ.ຣ.ຈ. ພອນມຣາດຈາວນ /mòmraədchāwən, -cha-/ M.R. (a title for those in the great-grandchild generation of royal descent, or treated as such), e.g.
- ມ.ຣ.ຈ. ເສນີ ປຣາມໂດ /mòmraədchawən sēnii praambod/  
M.R. Seni Pramot
- ມ.ລ. ພອນມລຸ້ນ /mòmmlūn/ M.L. (a title for those in the great-great-grandchild generation of royal descent, or treated as such)
- ມ.ສ. ນາງສາວ /naənsāw/ "Miss," e.g.
- ມ.ສ. ສີ ຟັກດີ /naənsāw sī phágdii/ Miss Si Phakdi
- But the titles ນາຍ /naaj/ "Mr." and ນາງ /naəŋ/ "Mrs." are not subject to abbreviation.
- ດຣ. ກາລຟ ບັນຊີ  
Transliterated from the English abbreviation "Dr." and read as /dógtso/, e.g.  
Dr. Ralph Bunche

Additional miscellaneous abbreviations commonly seen in newspapers are listed on the following page.

- ก.พ. คณะกรรมการข้าราชการพลเรือน /khaná? kammakaan kháarsadchakaanphonlaryan/ Civil Service
- ส.ส. สมาชิกสภาผู้แทนราษฎร /samaachig saphaa-phóutheen ráadsadón/ Member of Parliament
- ก.ร.ม. คณะรัฐมนตรี /khaná? rádthamontri/ the cabinet (of ministers of state)
- ร.ม.ท. รัฐมนตรี /rádthamontri/ minister (of state)
- ร.ฟ.ท. รถไฟไทย /ródfajthaj/ Thai Railways  
Formerly called /ródfajthán/ "Royal State Railways" and abbrev. as ร.พ.ส.
- ก.ม. กฎหมาย /kódmáaj/ law. Sometimes also the abbrev. for "kilometer" (p. 93).
- จ.ม. จกหมาย /cód máaj/ letter (epistle)
- ป.ม. ไปรษณียบัตร /prajsaniijabád/ post card
- ป.ล. หนังสือนิต /páti? líkhid/ postscript, P.S.
- น.ร. นักเรียน /nágrian/ student (in school)
- ร.ร. โรงเรียน /roonrian/ school
- ร.ง. โรงงาน /roonjaan/ factory
- โทร. โทรศัพท์ /thoorasáb/ telephone. Used in front of telephone numbers (either Thai or Arabic numerals), e.g.
- โทร. ๑๐๖๕๔ /thoorasáb nŷn sŷun hòg háa sŷi/
- โทร. 10654 Tel. 10654
- น. นาฬิกา /naalíkaa/ o'clock (of time on the 24-hour basis), e.g.
- ๑๒.๐๐ น. /sŷwŷn naalíkaa/ 2 A.M.
- ๒๐.๐๐ น. /jŷisb naalíkaa/ 8 P.M.
- สก. สดางค์ /sataanj/ satang, 1-100th of a baht, e.g.
- ๒๕ สก. /jŷisibháa sataanj/ 25 satangs

|      |         |                             |
|------|---------|-----------------------------|
| บ.   | บาท     | /bâad/ baht, tical          |
| จ.จ. | จังหวัด | /cajwâd/ changwat, province |
| อ.   | อำเภอ   | /ʔamphee/ amphoe, district  |

### 5. Metric System Abbreviations

The commonly used abbreviations for the units of the metric system have been transliterated from the standard European abbreviations as shown below.

#### METRIC SYSTEM ABBREVIATIONS

|      |           |                                                                    |
|------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ก.   | กรัม      | /kram/ gram (g.)                                                   |
| คคก. | เดคากรัม  | /deekhaakram/ decagram (dkg.)                                      |
| ฮก.  | เฮกโตกรัม | /hégtookram/ hectogram (hg.)                                       |
| กก.  | กิโลกรัม  | /kllookram/ kilogram (kg.)                                         |
| คก.  | เดซิกรัม  | /deesikram/ decigram (dg.)                                         |
| ซก.  | เซนติกรัม | /sentikram/ centigram (cg.)                                        |
| มก.  | มิลลิกรัม | /minlikram/ milligram (mg.)                                        |
| ม.   | เมตร      | /méd/ meter (m.)                                                   |
| คคม. | เดคาเมตร  | /deekhaaméd/ decameter (dkm.)                                      |
| ฮม.  | เฮกโตเมตร | /hégtooméd/ hectometer (hm.)                                       |
| กม.  | กิโลเมตร  | /klooméd/ kilometer (km.). Sometimes also abbrev. as ก.ม. (p. 93). |
| คม.  | เดซิเมตร  | /deesiméd/ decimeter (dm.)                                         |
| ซม.  | เซนติเมตร | /sentiméd/ centimeter (cm.)                                        |
| มม.  | มิลลิเมตร | /minliméd/ millimeter (mm.)                                        |
| ล.   | ลิตร      | /lid/ liter (l.)                                                   |
| คคล. | เดคาลิตร  | /deekhaalid/ decaliter (dkl.)                                      |

|     |           |                              |
|-----|-----------|------------------------------|
| ๕๓. | เฮกโตลิตร | /hэгtoolid/ hectoliter (hl.) |
| ๕๔. | กิโลลิตร  | /kliloolid/ kiloliter (kl.)  |
| ๕๕. | เดซิลิตร  | /deesilid/ deciliter (dl.)   |
| ๕๖. | เซนติลิตร | /sentilid/ centiliter (cl.)  |
| ๕๗. | มิลลิลิตร | /minlilid/ milliliter (ml.)  |

## 6. Thai Initials and European Initials

The consonant letters of the Thai alphabet can be used as initials, i.e., as abbreviations of personal names. When so used the letters are always followed by a period, e.g.

- ก. /กจจ/ Abbreviation for any name beginning in ก.
- ข. /khจจ/ Abbreviation for any name beginning in ข, e.g.
- ข. กักดิ์ /khจจ phэгdii/ where /khจจ/ could be the abbreviation for ขกข /khægab/ or any other name beginning in ข.
- ค. /khจจ/ Abbreviation for any name beginning in ค.

Etc.

The letters of the English alphabet are also used as abbreviations, particularly for expressions like "DDT," "Vitamin 'A,'" etc. They are also used in the transliteration of initials of American, British and other European personal names. The letters of the English alphabet are written out in Thai according to the pronunciation used for the letters of the alphabet in British English. A period is then placed at the end in order to show that these are abbreviations. The convention (or conventions) for writing these letters is shown on the following page.

## LETTERS OF THE ENGLISH ALPHABET

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| เอ.                   | /ʔee/ A                       |
| บี.                   | /bi:/ B                       |
| ซี.                   | /si:/ C                       |
| ดี.                   | /di:/ D                       |
| อี.                   | /ʔii/ E                       |
| เอฟ. เอฟ.             | /ʔéf/ F                       |
| จี. จี.               | /ji:/ (or) /ci:/ G            |
| เฮช. เฮช.             | /ʔéch/ H                      |
| ไอ.                   | /ʔaj/ I                       |
| เจ.                   | /cee/ J                       |
| เค.                   | /khee/ K                      |
| แอล. แอล. แอล.        | /ʔel/ (or) /ʔel/ L            |
| เอ็ม. เอ็ม.           | /ʔem/ M                       |
| เอ็น. เอ็น.           | /ʔen/ N                       |
| โอ.                   | /ʔoo/ O                       |
| พี.                   | /phii/ P                      |
| คิว.                  | /khiw/ Q                      |
| อาร์.                 | /ʔaa/ R                       |
| เอส. เอส.             | /ʔés/ S                       |
| ที.                   | /thii/ T                      |
| ยู.                   | /juu/ U                       |
| วี.                   | /wii/ V                       |
| ดับเบิลยู. ดับเบิลยู. | /dàbbeljuu/ (or) /dàbbaliw/ W |
| เอกซ์. เอกซ์.         | /ʔég/ X                       |
| วาย. ไวบ์.            | /waaj/ (or) /waj/ Y           |
| ซีด. ซีด.             | /sêd/ (or) /sêd/ Z, i.e. zed  |

## Examples:

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| วิตามิน เอ.       | /witaamin 'ee/ Vitamin A        |
| วิตามิน บี.       | /witaamin bi/ Vitamin B         |
| ดี.ดี.ดี.         | /dii dii thii/ DDT              |
| เอฟ.เอ.โอ.        | /'éf 'ee 'oo/ FAO               |
| เฮน.ดับบลิว.วอร์ด | /'éeh dabbaliw wáad/ H. W. Ward |

## 7. Dates

Thailand uses the Buddhist era, reckoned from the date of the death of the Buddha, for all official purposes. Different Buddhist countries have slightly different dates for this event, but in Thailand it is reckoned to be 543 years before the beginning of the Christian era.

To determine the year according to the Christian era, subtract 543 from the year of the Buddhist era. To determine the year according to the Buddhist era, add 543 to the year of the Christian era.

The abbreviations used for these two eras of time reckoning are shown and illustrated below.

|           |             |                                                                                    |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| พ.ศ.      | พุทธศักราช  | /phúdtshasàgkaràad/ Buddhist era, i.e. B.E., e.g.                                  |
| พ.ศ. ๒๔๔๘ |             | /phúdtshasàgkaràad sǎnphan si-rǎj káwsǎp-téed/ 2498 B.E. (equivalent to 1955 A.D.) |
| ค.ศ.      | คริสตศักราช | /khrídsàgkaràad/ Christian era, i.e. A.D., e.g.                                    |
| ค.ศ. ๑๙๕๕ |             | /khrídsàgkaràad nǎnphan káwrǎj háasǎbháa/ 1955 A.D. (equivalent to 2498 B.E.)      |

When dates are given in full the form used is that given in the first line of Thai on the following page. But sometimes the abbreviation for the era is

omitted (second line).

วันอาทิตย์ที่ ๑๗ ตุลาคม พ.ศ. ๒๔๙๗

วันอาทิตย์ที่ ๑๗ ตุลาคม ๒๔๙๗

/wan<sup>?</sup>aathid thiiisibcèd tùlaakhom phúddhasàgkaràad  
 sǎwngphan slirǎwj kâwsibcèd/ Sunday, Oct. 17, 2497 B.E.

Two sets of abbreviations for the names of the months are shown below. Of these two the first is perhaps the more commonly used.

|       |         |            |                               |
|-------|---------|------------|-------------------------------|
| ม.ค.  | มกร.    | มกราคม     | /mógkaraakhom/ January        |
| ก.พ.  | กุมภ.   | กุมภาพันธ์ | /kumphaaphan/ February        |
| มี.ค. | มีน.    | มีนาคม     | /miinaakhom/ March            |
| ม.ย.  | เมษ.    | เมษายน     | /meesǎajon/ April             |
| พ.ค.  | พฤษภ.   | พฤษภาคม    | /phrýdsaphaakhom, -ss-/ May   |
| มิ.ย. | มิถุน.  | มิถุนายน   | /mithùnaajon/ June            |
| ก.ค.  | กรกฎ.   | กรกฎาคม    | /karágkadaakhom/ July         |
| ส.ค.  | สิงห.   | สิงหาคม    | /sǐnhǎakhom/ August           |
| ก.ย.  | กันย.   | กันยายน    | /kan' .ajon/ September        |
| ท.ค.  | ตุล.    | ตุลาคม     | /tùlaakhom/ October           |
| พ.ย.  | พฤศจิก. | พฤศจิกายน  | /phrýdsacikaaajon, -ss-/ Nov. |
| ธ.ว.  | ธันว.   | ธันวาคม    | /thanwaakhom/ December        |

Shortened forms of a date may be given in the style shown below. The first line has the first type of month abbreviation, the second line the second type.

๒๒ ก.ค. ๒๔๙๘

๒๒ ธันวาคม ๒๔๙๘

/wanthi jhisibhōg thanwaakhom sūnphan siirōj kām-  
sibpēd/ December 26, 2498 (B.E.)

In the most extreme shortened form of a date, the month is referred to by its consecutive number and the year date is shown by giving the last two numerals only. Observe that the first number stands for the day of the month and the second number is the number of the month (the style most frequently used in Europe). This is in contrast to the style in which the first number is the number of the month and the second number is the day of the month (the style most frequently used in America).

๒๖ / ๑๒ / ๙๘

26/12/98, i.e. 12-26-55 (in the American style and using the Christian era in place of the Buddhist era)

### 8. Pagination

The pages of a modern Thai book or newspaper are numbered in the same way that European and American books are, but several styles of numbers may be used.

(1) Ordinary Thai numerals are used in the main body of the book, e.g.

๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙ ๑๐ ๑๑ ๑๒

The front matter of the book is paginated by the use of the Thai letters of the alphabet in place of the Roman numerals used in European books, e.g.

ก ข ค ง จ ฉ ช ฉ ๑๐ ๑๑ ๑๒

(2) Ordinary Thai numerals are used in the main body of the book as above. The front matter is

paginated by the use of capital Roman numerals,  
e.g.

I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X

(3) The main body of the book is paginated by  
the use of Arabic numerals, e.g.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

## S A M P L E S O F H A N D W R I T I N G

The four pages which follow contain samples of Thai handwriting done by two different persons. Three styles of handwriting are illustrated: precise, medium, and fast. Page 104 has a sample of the precise style, and page 105 shows the same text in both medium and fast styles. Pages 106 and 107 illustrate the medium and fast styles, respectively, of a second brief text. Both texts are taken from the THAI READER. The first is the fourth paragraph of วิชาภาษาไทย, pp. 185-187, but the date is expanded to show both B.E. and A.D. The second text is วิชาจีน, pp. 45-46.

The style of lettering in precise handwriting most closely resembles printing. The other two styles have characteristics associated with handwriting only. A few examples selected to show some of the peculiarities are given below.

|      |       |      |      |      |
|------|-------|------|------|------|
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒๒  | ๒๒๒  |      |
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒๒๒ | ๒๒๒๒ | ๒๒๒๒ |
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒   | ๒๒   |      |
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒   | ๒๒   | ๒๒   |
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒   | ๒๒   | ๒๒   |
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒   | ๒๒   |      |
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒๒๒ | ๒๒๒๒ |      |
| ๒, ๒ | as in | ๒๒   | ๒๒   |      |
| ๒    | as in | ๒๒   | ๒๒   |      |

The student who is interested in the problem will be able to find other examples on his own initiative.

กรุงเทพฯ เป็นเมืองหลวงของประเทศไทยตั้ง  
 แต่พ.ศ. ๒๓๒๕ (ค.ศ. ๑๗๘๑) ตั้งอยู่บนฝั่ง  
 ตะวันออกของแม่น้ำเจ้าพระยา เมืองสำคัญของ  
 ประเทศนอกจากกรุงเทพฯ คือ อโยธยา ตั้งอยู่เหนือ  
 กรุงเทพฯ ตามฝั่งแม่น้ำเจ้าพระยา พินธุโลก  
 ลำปาง และเชียงใหม่ เป็นเมืองใหญ่ทางภาคเหนือ  
 ทางภาคใต้มีเมืองใหญ่หลายเมืองเช่น เพชรบุรี  
 นครปฐม ราชบุรี สุราษฎร์ นครศรีธรรมราช  
 สงขลา ตรัง ภูเก็ต และ ปัตตานี

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 จากกรุงเทพฯ คือ ชุมพร ตั้งอยู่บนฝั่งกรุงเทพฯ. ตาม  
 ฝั่งแม่น้ำเจ้าพระยา มีหมู่โลก กำปอง และเชียงใหม่  
 เป็นเมืองใหญ่ทางภาคเหนือ ทางภาคใต้มี  
 เมืองใหญ่หลายเมืองเช่น นครบุรี นครปฐม  
 ราชบุรี สุราษฎร์ นครศรีธรรมราช สงขลา ตรัง  
 ภูเก็ต และปัตตานี

กรุงเทพฯ เป็นเมืองนอกของประเทศไทยตั้งแต่ พ.ศ.  
 ๒๓๒๕ (ค.ศ. ๑๗๘๒) ตั้งอยู่บนฝั่งตะวันตกของแม่น้ำ  
 เจ้าพระยา เมืองสำคัญของประเทศนอกจากกรุงเทพฯ คือ  
 ชุมพร ตั้งอยู่บนฝั่งกรุงเทพฯ. ตามฝั่งแม่น้ำเจ้าพระยา  
 มีหมู่โลก กำปอง และเชียงใหม่ เป็นเมืองใหญ่ทาง  
 ภาคเหนือ ทางภาคใต้มีเมืองใหญ่หลายเมืองเช่น  
 นครบุรี นครปฐม ราชบุรี สุราษฎร์ นครศรีธรรมราช  
 สงขลา ตรัง ภูเก็ต และปัตตานี

## มีรถหลายชนิดที่ผู้ใช้ถนนประเภทที่ ๓

เช่น รถยนต์ รถไฟ รถราง รถจักรยาน รถ  
 จักรยานสามล้อ และรถจักรยานยนต์ เป็นต้น ได้ยกเอา  
 นักเรียนซึ่งมีผู้ใช้รถจักรยานสำหรับขี่ไปเที่ยวและขี่ไป  
 โรงเรียน รถจักรยานสามล้อ และรถจักรยานยนต์สำหรับ  
 การโดยสารในเขตเมือง เพราะเอาตัวอย่างแบบคน  
 รถยนต์ และรถรางที่ใช้สำหรับการโดยสารทั้งในเขต  
 เมืองและเขตไกล แต่ผู้ใช้สำหรับการขนส่งของตั้ง  
 ส่วนรถไฟนั้นผู้ใช้สำหรับการโดยสารและการขนส่ง  
 รถอ้อมเมืองต่างๆ รถไฟในประเภทที่ ๓ จะ  
 และถี่มาชมาก ความยาวของทางรถไฟในประเภท  
 ที่ ๓ ประมาณ ๗๐๐ ไมล์ หรือ ๓๕๐ กิโลเมตร  
 ๑๗.



## SAMPLES OF THAI PRINTING

Samples of a variety of Thai printing styles in an assortment of sizes are given on pages 110-115. Those on pages 110-112 are used in newspaper headlines, and those on pages 111-112 are also often used for titles of articles and for paragraph headings. Page 113 contains samples of dates in an assortment of type styles and sizes. Pages 114-115 show a few samples of attention-getting styles of type which are used as heading for special columns, feature articles, stories, advertisements, etc.

These samples of Thai printing can be made use of by the student in a number of ways. In the early stages of his study of the Thai writing system, the student can use pages 110-112 as an exercise in the identification of consonant symbols. All but the rarest consonants are illustrated on these three pages. When using this material for identification purposes, the student should merely identify the consonants, calling them by name, e.g. /cɔɔ caɔ/, /dɔɔ dɔɔ/, etc. Later on he can use the same pages as a series of exercises in the identification of vowel symbols, tone marks, and typographical signs.

After he has learned the Thai numerals on pages 83-84, the student can use page 113 as a numeral identification exercise. Then since the same page contains examples of dates in both full and abbreviated form, the same page can be used as an exercise in reading dates after the section on dates (pages 99-100) has been studied.

When the student has finished working through all the rules of the Thai writing system, he can use the various pages of printing samples as a

series of reading exercises. Most of the words can be found by looking them up in the THAI VOCABULARY. Words not to be found there are listed below.

|             |                                                                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| อนาคต       | /ʔanaakhód, ʔa-/ the future (page 111)                                      |
| เวียดนาม    | /wíadnaam/ Vietnam, Vietnamese (111)                                        |
| ในแผ่นดินคน | /noomeenleen/ No Man's Land (Eng.) (111)                                    |
| ฮัว         | /húa/ Hua (proper name) (111)                                               |
| ขอบคุณ      | /khòobkhun/ to thank ..; thanks (112)                                       |
| สหรัฐ       | /sàhàràd, sa-/ federated states (here referring to the United States) (112) |
| ในข้าง      | /naj dāan/ in the way (side) of (112)                                       |
| โทริเซน     | /thoorisen/ Thorisen (proper name) (112)                                    |
| แ่ง         | /nèe/ angle, point (114)                                                    |
| เกาหลี      | /kawlii/ Korea (115)                                                        |

The printing styles illustrated on pp. 110-113 are sufficiently clear so that the student should have no difficulty in identifying all of the symbols. Some of the styles on pp. 114-115, on the other hand, are more difficult. A typewritten key to the material on those two pages is therefore given below.

## Page 114

จกหมาย  
 ไกร-อะไร-สีโทน  
 ไกร อะไร สีโทน  
 ฟังว่า  
 แ่งคิก  
 ทำกับข้าวไม่เป็น

## Page 115

ภาพยนตร์ ที่มี  
 ชาวอเมริกันศึกษา  
 มีหลายประการ  
 เก็บเล็กผสมน้อย  
 ในเกาหลี  
 โทน

จุด หมายถึง  
จาก  
กรุงเทพฯ

---

พุทธคำสอน  
ใน อิน เตีย

# วิทยาศาสตร์ ภาพข่าว

ป้องกันอาชญากรรมนอกเนืองใต้

ข่าวสมาคม  
บทบรรณาธิการ  
การประชุมสมทวิธานา  
ตรวจราชการ  
อนาคตมืดในเวียดนาม  
เรื่องไม่เป็นเรื่อง  
ข้าง และ การล่าข้าง  
โนแมนส์แลนด์ในอินโดจีน  
ฐานะของสตรีไทย  
บริษัท บี.เอ็ด.อีว จำกัด

พม่าขอขมคุณไทย  
 สหรัฐขอซื้อตึก จำนวน ๒๔๐๐ ตัน  
 ห้ามพ่อค้าเป็นหนี้ ส่งสินค้าออกขาย  
 น่าอาจจะท่วมใหญ่

เขมรขอให้มหาอำนาจรีบช่วยเหลือ  
 ทั้งในด้านอาวุธและทางเศรษฐกิจ

ผู้ว่าการจังหวัด เตือนตำรวจ

เครื่องไฟฟ้าใหม่ มาถึง ครบแล้ว

กรม. พิจารณาช่วยราษฎรชาวอีสาน  
 เนื่องจากฝนตกน้อยจนทำนาไม่ได้

สารบาญโฆษณา

ของประเทศอังกฤษ อเมริกา ฯลฯ

บริษัท ไทริเซน (กรุงเทพฯ) จำกัด

# วันที่ ๑ กันยายน ๕๔

## ๔ พย. ๖ ธ.ค. ๓ ม.ค.

วันพฤหัสบดีที่ ๖ กันยายน ๒๔๙๔

๑ มิถุนายน ๒๔๙๗ ๒ กรกฎาคม ๒๔๙๗

วันอังคารที่ ๑๗ มกราคม พ.ศ. ๒๔๙๗

กุมภาพันธ์ ๒๔๙๕

เมษายน ๒๔๙๕

ประจำวันที่ ๓๐ ธันวาคม ๒๔๘๔

อังคารที่ ๓๐ ตุลาคม ๘๔

วันอาทิตย์ที่ ๑๔ พฤศจิกายน พ.ศ. ๒๔๘๗

วันที่ ๒ ค.ค. - ๖ พ.ย. พุทธศักราช ๒๔๘๔

วันศุกร์ที่ ๒ กรกฎาคม พ.ศ. ๒๔๘๗

วันอังคารที่ ๒๐ พฤษภาคม ๒๔๘๕

ตั้งแต่ ๒๔ มีนาคม ถึง ๗ พฤษภาคม ๒๔๘๕ เวลา ๘.๐๐ - ๑๒.๐๐ น.

เมื่อวันที่ ๖ ธันวาคม ๒๔๘๔ เวลา ๑๖.๒๐ น.

จดหมาย 

ใคร-อะไร-ที่ไหน

๑๓๕ ๐:๑๕ ที่ไหน

ฟัง

บันทึก

ทำกับข้าว<sup>2</sup>

ไฉ่แปะ

# ภาพยนตร์ วันพี

ช่างแผนกฝึกหัดครู

ปัญหาประจำวัน

เก็บเล็กผสมน้อย

# ในเกาหลี

# 100%